

SEVEN DAYS



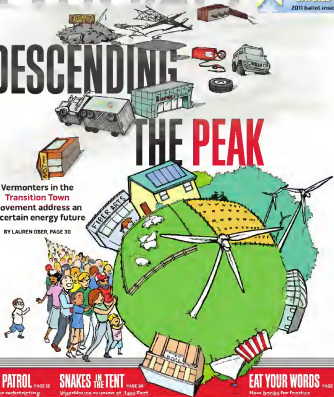
TIME TO
PICK THE
DAYSIES!

2010 ballot, inside

DESCENDING THE PEAK

Vermonters in the
Transition Town
movement address an
uncertain energy future

BY LAUREN OBER, PAGE 30



BORDER PATROL

PAGE 32

Boyle considers redteaming

SNAKES IN THE TENT

PAGE 36

Ugarte looks for snakes at Jazz Fest

EAT YOUR WORDS

PAGE 42

How (not) to franchise



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Respect Your Elders?

Aspiring "Unconquered" "Angel" "There are some of the worst advocates for the elderly who would be involved in the day response issues," by Adult Protective Services to complaints of elder abuse.

But last week, a coalition of several groups struck a deal with the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living to address the long backlog of complaints affecting abused, neglected and exploited old, frail and disabled residents. Hundreds of complaints have gone unaddressed and are being investigated by APS. Some have been reported already.

The allegations over the state's mismanagement of elder abuse investigations were in the May/June 2011 issue of the state's magazine, published under a story called "Advocates Charge Vermont is Failing to Safely and Dignified Citizens." That past campaign of abuse and neglect, perpetrated by APS, some have been reported already, at the same time, the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living was struggling to pay its bills. As a result, the state was struggling to investigate the most severe but keeping the worst majority of complaints ignored.

"The delayed investigations weren't just inefficient—they were illegal."

Advocates for the elderly and disabled say the problem has only worsened since then. And the delayed investigations weren't just inefficient—they were illegal. The state required APS to open an investigation within 48 hours of receiving a complaint.

So how will APS fix the problem? By hiring more investigators, both full-time and part-time, and by placing a limit on how many cases any given investigator can take on. An advisory committee will monitor the department's progress. Advocates hope that these steps will protect the state's most vulnerable citizens from further abuse.

Read more at: sevendayvt.com/story.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DASHWOOD

facing facts



WHAT DOES UP

An Arden couple got stuck in the elevator at the 380 East Beaulieu. The couple was stuck for an hour. The couple was stuck for an hour. The couple was stuck for an hour.



WHAT THERE'S AROUND

CMF's Lowell would present was Approval from the Public Review Board. The board's decision was a positive one. The board's decision was a positive one.



OUR OUT OF CONTROL

A Red Sox fan's accidently shot himself in the head with a gun. The fan was shot in the head with a gun. The fan was shot in the head with a gun.



JULIENNAZZ

The Darling Jazz Summer Jazz Festival brings together some of the best jazz musicians in the world. The festival is a celebration of jazz music.

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That's the sign of a great education. That's the sign of a great education. That's the sign of a great education.

TOP FIVE

MOST PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT

- 1. "The Fugate" by Tony Tatum** First to know if your loved one is in the hospital. The board's decision was a positive one.
- 2. "The Fugate" by Tony Tatum** First to know if your loved one is in the hospital. The board's decision was a positive one.
- 3. "Why So Many Independent Vermonters Are Leaving the State"** by Tony Tatum. The board's decision was a positive one.
- 4. "The Fugate" by Tony Tatum** First to know if your loved one is in the hospital. The board's decision was a positive one.
- 5. "The Fugate" by Tony Tatum** First to know if your loved one is in the hospital. The board's decision was a positive one.



Check in and Waffles at Duane (Duane)

This week marks the final episode of the Bite Club TV — and what better way to go out than with a bite. The Bite Club TV is a weekly show that features the best restaurants, bars, and clubs in the area. The show is a celebration of the local food and drink scene.



Looking for the money bug?

Find more at: sevendayvt.com/story.

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Small Dog Electronics makes you to join a FREE exclusive briefing to learn the latest information about how iPad works in a business environment. Topics will include integration, security, management, and business apps. We are offering two identical sessions (morning or afternoon). Please register for one of the two sessions below.

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 Michelle Brown, Ann Proctor
EMERGING LEADERSHIP & FUTURE: Judy Fendler
RESEARCH & PERSONAL EXPERIENCE: Kathy Brundin

Main Reading: David Wallace, *The Wayward Bus*
 Elizabeth Coker, *Edith Wharton's Career: A History*
 1918-1920, *North Atlantic* Amy Liff
 Journal: Chapter 1, Amy Liff, *Edith Wharton's Career*

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The interaction between Rachel Kahn-Fogel and Michael Schmitz is a serious and unfortunate mistake (Fidei Gens, "Dangerous Liaisons," May 25). We are fortunate that the story is not and can now move to some resolution. I am disappointed with the way it was handled in *Seven Days*. While read-

ing the 300-word article, I anticipated the insight and informed commentary that I have come to expect. It never came. Instead, there was this crowing "poitah" that I would expect more from a low-grade imbecile. The article was more about displaying the abundance of court information and pellow talk, without the benefit of insight or analysis. Steven Gey has earned a reputation for covering stories that the big dukes are ignorant of, or choose to ignore. After reading "Dignorous Lemmons," I feel that you are losing ground.

Seiden Ceburu
Meydanı 200, 200

(Re: Peter Gorn, "Dangerous Liaisons," May 25). Talk about "dangerous" Shame on you, Seven Dope! It is really a sad day when a Seven Dope unashamedly joins with the slumming of journalistic opportunists to hound and expose a Vermont citizen who has already been identified as fragile and vulnerable. Seven Dope has always promoted itself as doing good things for the community. Now it looks like you give it to your biased instincts and sell out to create

TIME NEWT 140

THIS NEW REPORT FINDS
YOUR SPENT-FUEL POOL
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THAN ALL FOUR DAMAGED
DAIICHI REACTORS IN JAPAN

Why would you publish such intimate and private letters? Just because you could? And maybe because these sensationalized events are needed?

Relationships are private and personal means. To expose the intimate lives of people is to participate in a kind of voyeurism that is deplorable. Did you stop and think about how you have contributed to the painful consequences you have created for the children and extended family? What could you have been thinking — or were you not thinking at all?

A sexual liaison between two consenting adults is not illegal, and fantasies are not behaviors. There may or may not be consequences of consensual extramarital affairs. Affairs may be the result of troubled marriages or mental health issues. Seldom are they actually criminal. To call these behaviors "sexual harassment" is also very ill-bred. Responsible journalists would respect privacy and empathy for the pain and suffering of all involved.

Scale 14: *Spickeen*

Golden is a licensed, independent clinical social worker.

Wine, what great juicy gang. The bad TMX doesn't care and won't purchase [For Game, 'Dangerous Liaison' May 15] for her back.

1000





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MUST SEE, MUST DO THIS WEEK
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7

1

SATURDAY 11 & SUNDAY 12 Jolly Roger

With Captain Jack Sparrow on the big screen again, pilfering and plundering are back in style. All the annual With Pirates Festival, featuring live actors, gets some historical perspective as the weekbookers of years by improving their makeshift tools and handling the treasure. Walk, swim and drink.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 52

2

SATURDAY 11 & SUNDAY 12 Spell Bound

With a plot driven by good and wicked enchantments, *Spellbound* easily puts the "fairy" in "fairy tale." Enchantments get a dose of the magic at the Sullen School of Sorcery and the Northern Vermont Ballet Company's graceful adaptation, set in a Thelwell scene.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 50

SATURDAY 11 Grin and Bare It

For the 17th year, Vermont's six Inland Co. "bare as you are" are a heavenly grin around the capital city. Musicians join others around the globe in the "World Naked Bike Ride," a dress-free event protesting all corporations while promoting forces of alternative transportation and, of course, people's body image. Sign your wheels or strap bare bottoms — just don't drink on public.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 51

3

THURSDAY 9-SATURDAY 11 TUESDAY 14 & WEDNESDAY 15

Happy Campers

You'll know the story: Young lovers separated on a date and staying night find themselves in the clutches of an inescapable, ancient evil. But now, the film and New York City actors jump to the left and drop to the right in a scary session at a *Happy Horror Show* performed in *Bellevue* new multipurpose events space. Merchants: Not. Do the "True Worp" again, new through June 18.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 50

SATURDAY 11 & SUNDAY 12 Free World

To travel freely is essential to life. But, as we go on our way, we are often hindered. As part of *Free World*, *Days* state parks, state-owned historic sites and the Vermont History Museum welcome visitors from an Saturday on through June 18. Look for the best things in life: free and the sometimes.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 52

THURSDAY 9 A Common Thread

Armenians band *Same* had their (sophisticated) but their sound supports the deep south. Their country being would be a thread in a quilt. The roadshow — maybe that's why their music is so popular in the north and south by music lovers. Let's find a "thread" with them at the 11th Thursday.

SEE CLUB LISTING ON PAGE 50

ONGOING Unfinished Business

At the Montpelier College Museum of Art's *Unfinished Business: The Creative Process of an American Master* gives the art of "unfinishing" into an artist's working studio rather than a completed exhibit. That's intentional. Many of the artists' 36 works aren't complete. They're displayed without frames or even being up on the walls. The presentation invites the viewer to question quality of the art and offers insight to the artist's method.

SEE ART REVIEW ON PAGE 52

everything else...

CALENDAR	— P. 48
CLASSES	— P. 55
MUSIC	— P. 58
ART	— P. 56
MOVIES	— P. 52

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FAIR GAME OPEN SEASON ON VERMONT POLITICS BY SHAP TOTTUM



Gotta Draw the Line Somewhere

As an emerging political alliance between Republicans and Progressives is making the weekly work of the Legislature Apartment Board — the panel charged with redrawing the state's House and Senate districts — one of the most-watched affairs in Montpelier. Democrats are so worried that House Speaker SHAP SMITH is raising concerns about "political chicanery."

Every 10 years, state law mandates that legislative districts undergo study so based on the U.S. Census data. Some districts shrink and others expand as the population shifts. A new map must be approved before the end of the next legislative session in order to be in effect for the 2012 ball elections.

The panel came together last November. Each of Vermont's three political parties appointed someone. Gov. JIM DOUGLASS led the same, selecting a panelist from each camp. Chief Justice PAUL BAKER chose the chair, or "special master." The result? Two Democrats, two Republicans, two Progressives and a former GOP lawmaker are tasked with balancing voter representation among 150 House reps and 30 Senate members. That works out to 4172 voters per rep, 26456 per senator.

Progressives AND REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS, along with Republicans BRUCE LANDERMAN and BOB ROBERTS, are increasingly supportive of a plan to reduce the number of two-member House districts from 42 to six. They want to increase the number of one-person House districts from 66 to 138.

A competing plan that will be considered at the board's meeting this Thursday has the support of the panel's two Democrats — FRANK GAVEL and GARY BOKROS — and Chairman SMITH. SMITH would leave existing district lines mostly intact, with slight tweaks where the population has shifted significantly. Previous reapportionment boards have taken the same approach.

You could argue that the results have benefited Democrats, who now hold a "super majority" in the House and Senate. Last time around, reapportionment cost the Burlington Progressives two House seats. Republicans won from having a majority in the House to a 42-member majority.

In this political backdrop?
"It approached this from the perspective of electoral riches. I believe

single-seat districts are inherently better. They are more intimate between voters and representatives," said Bingham, a former Burlington rep who ran for lieutenant governor. "They are also less expensive to campaign in, thereby leveling the playing field between candidates."

As a former Republican Party chairman, Roper worries. In fact, he'd like to see 150 single-member districts. "It should ideally be one person, one vote, one rep," said Roper. "It also makes it easier for people to run and draw a constituency when there is just one candidate."

But if it breaks towns apart and pits incumbents against one another, the House's top Democrat is opposed.

I WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM DECLARING SOMETHING DEAD ON ARRIVAL IF THERE IS EVIDENCE OF POLITICAL CHICANERY.

HOUSE SPEAKER
SHAP SMITH

"I really don't want to see a plan that comes to the legislature and is immediately shelved as in a fantasy project," said Speaker Smith. His Montpelier House seat could be merged with neighboring Johnson — a move Smith opposes.

In other locales, incumbents could wind up running against a fellow rep if the single-member district plan prevails. Those include Democratic Reps. JERRY LARSEN and PETER PARRIS in Hardwick and Woodbury; Democratic Reps. JASON LARSEN and JACOB WILSON in Burlington; and GOP Reps. JOE TURNER and BOB HANSEN in Milton.

"I would have no problem declaring something dead on arrival if there is evidence of political chicanery," Smith said. Bingham said he has purposely ignored incumbent issues as the single-member district map has evolved.

"We shouldn't really be thinking about incumbents but the voters," he said.

Gossens told "This Game" he believes supporters of single-member districts are playing politics with the map, especially since the message is clear that lawmakers prefer the status quo.

"If they are doing it just to embarrass

the legislature, then I don't know why we're putting in all of this time and effort," said Gossens. "I've not hearing a great outcry from voters that the current system is unfair, so I think we have to be careful of being political and trying to protect the voters from themselves."

Landerville said the board shouldn't shy away from making changes just because other players in the process don't like it.

"I was interested in taking a fresh look at the map, especially given that the last map was developed 10 years ago and that was based largely on the map from 10 years before, and so on dating back to the original map," said Landerville. A final proposed map must be delivered to the legislature by August 1.

Larri, who drove around the state to get a personal feel for each legislative district, worried the panel's members might not reach consensus.

"If we can't agree on one plan," Little noted, "then ultimately we'll take some votes and see where the chips fall."

The panel must be on the air by July 1 so local boards of civil authority can have a chance to weigh in.

Progressives on the Panel

Progressives can think Democrat Sen. STEPHEN LEE and current State Sen. ANTHONY PULASKI (D/D/Washington) for their sorts of the reapportionment table.

Symington's third place gubernatorial finish in 2004 forced lawmakers to rewrite the law governing the composition of the reapportionment board. Before 2008, the board only included members of "major parties" whose gubernatorial candidates received at least 25 percent of the vote in the election preceding the electoral census.

In 2008 Symington earned only 21.7 percent of the vote, a hair behind Pollack, an independent at the time, who finished with 21.6 percent. Only Republican Ann Delgado earned more than 25 percent of the vote — 34.4 percent, to be exact.

Due to Symington's poor showing, the Democrat-led legislature changed the law so Dems wouldn't be left out of the reapportionment process. They changed the criterion from gubernatorial percentages to party presence in the legislature.

Now a party gets a seat at the reapportionment table if it has at least three lawmakers serving from different counties in three out of the five sessions

following the most recent census.

Yes, Virginia, elections do have consequences

Battle of the Bulge

House redistricting is contentious, but the puzzle has yet to tackle the equally challenging Senate map. Chittenden County's population has grown almost enough to warrant a seventh senator.

To avoid adding a senator, or splitting the county into smaller districts, one or more towns may be given to neighboring counties.

The board has discussed moving Hinesburg to Charlotte to Addison County's senate district. That might pose a problem, since incumbent Sen. **DAVID CHALLINOR** (R-Chittenden) lives in Hinesburg. Another idea is to add Milton to the current Chittenden-Groton.

Isle Royale district, which is all of Grand Isle County and Colchester. With Milton, the district could qualify for two senators, up from its current one. Sen. **ROBERT MARSH**, a Democrat.

Which county is likely to lose a senator?

Odds are it would be Rutland, which is losing population and soon might not have enough people to justify its current slice of three senators.

GOP on the Go

A handful of top Vermont GOP central are not recently to talk about how to improve the party's prospects in 2012.

GOP chairwomen **JOY McDOONELL** and executive director **TWY BARRON** held a closed-door meeting with Sen. **DAVID BRUCE** (R-Franklin), Auditor **TOM SALAMON**, State Mayor **DAVID LADDEN** and former Lt. Gov. **RYAN BROWN**, as well as current Lt. Gov. **PAUL SCOTT** and former his gov candidate **MARK McLELLAN**.

Dallas wasn't twice, so he participated by phone.

No one claimed a particular race, McDoonell said the goal was to get these high-profile candidates to discuss their own plans, and use their star power to recruit additional candidates.

"Obviously we have a lot to discuss and coordinate, and I think everyone agreed that this was just the very first discussion," said McDoonell.

As "Fair Game" ended last week, Dublin is considering a 2013 run. "There is some interest in running," he said.

"I've served, I ran a campaign, and I'm interested in serving in some capacity."

Scholar, who is considering a bid for governor, US Senate or reelection, told "Fair Game" the meeting was helpful.

"Exactly what I expected," he said. "Piling the dance card in light pencil."

Elucidating, Not Irregular

An internal review by the University of Vermont found "no irregularities" regarding either the research work or disbursement written by a top university official who was involved in an unusual, six-year relationship with UVM President **DAVID SCHULZ**'s wife, **EMILY KAHN SCHULZ**.

UVM trustees launched the investigation after *Seven Days* made official inquiries about Kahn-Schulz's influence over the doctoral studies and day-in-day employment of **MICHAEL SCHULZ**, the school's associate vice president for development and alumni

relations. UVM found Schulz's doctoral files to be "in order and unremarkable," according to Provost **ANDREW BROWN**. He unveiled the report at a special meeting of the trustees executive committee last week. UVM might want to consult some of the findings in its broader thesis, aptly titled "Elucidating the Role of the University CEO's Spouse in Development, Alumni Relations and Fund Raising," before hiring the next CEO.

The remainder of UVM's investigation into Kahn-Schulz's actions is underway, according to UVM spokeswoman **EMILY CHANDLER**. The university is still interested in finding out whether Kahn-Schulz violated any UVM workplace policies or if UVM funds were misused.

"We want the rest of the review completed as soon as is feasible, but at the same time we want to make sure that it is done thoroughly and properly" and Chanderla. "So it may take weeks and

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Feedback

decency that I admire and support. This decency is so very important to me, because I feel that it is so rare in the news. Our society's aversion to reporting on dirt is fueled by moralistic reporting, and it's debasing.

So I was particularly dismayed to read the "Royal Palace" piece (Star Game, June 1). I support freedom of expression, but you do have a choice over what you print. The story may not violate any law of speech, but I feel it intentionally makes the privacy of the people involved, and therefore is very unnecessary. There is something shady and disreputable about this story and it left me surprised at *Seven Days*.

I cannot imagine a payable benefit to our community in detailing someone's divorce proceedings the way you did. If you're looking for material, why don't you further explore some of the global problems facing us, and how we can help? If you want lighter substance, expand on your recurring food pieces, but please don't continue down the second road, *Seven Days*! What's more, excerpts from Mulgrew's *The Governor*?

Ala Savakian
BURLINGTON

MAD ABOUT MAC

[Re: "Mac's Missing Millions: Plot Turns Abroad in Film Pandering Probe," May 26]. As a source in *Shay* Factor's article regarding Mac Parker, I'm dismayed to see him make a glaring omission and go on, as a result, to build a "report" rife with known inaccuracies, mis-phrasing and an insensitivity of tone.

He must, unfortunately, be in his reporting in the fact that *Shay* implied and insinuated about confederation from Mac attorneys that Mr. Parker held the only copyright for *North of Nowhere*. In light of this, to report on Horace Williams' legal effort to wrest control of Mac's film as anything remotely legitimate is utterly irresponsible. Regardless of the claims he continues to site, Horace Williams is not, and has never been, the film's "creator and creative partner" as they claim. He was a hired editor and, since his firing, has proven himself to be bitter and vindictive, stopping at nothing to detail Mac and his completing the film.

To be clear, besides, including myself, have rights to be discouraged. Mac Parker made terrible decisions. Money was squandered and an organized media body all of our trust by obscuring with millions. Yet the decision to make such a loan was ours; that is our responsibility. Leader Robert Fields has never once taken such responsibility — and that from a man who considers himself an investor. What investment is without robust Fields' consent of Mac's "honesty" about the lack of a federal indictment is incredibly and shameful, yet *Shay* runs with it.

Mac Parker has been led low by both state and federal cases, yet he's never punished the victim. It's always, always, and only, the victim. The gross crime in judgment leading up to these inquiries. And our case has Mac wavered from his commitment to death by film and to do so with every effort to repay cash and story leader. And progress is being made toward this end. Hundreds of these very leaders continue to stand by and with Mac Parker, knowing him to be a good and well-intentioned man who, yes, made real and gross errors. Rather than hanging him, these case folks have engaged unwavering support every difficult step of the way — supporting Mac's legal defense, raising contributions to finish his film and countering the negativity of an overblown employee.

Birth of democracy is an extraordinary film that speaks to the very heart in each of our potential. Contrary to *Shay*'s big contention that it "drips with New Age sentiments," the film offers a grounded yet fully message of real relevance needed now perhaps more than ever before. How ironic those who might benefit the most are so eager to tear it and its creator down.

Christopher White
WINDHAM

MAC'S VISION

There's a difficult situation ("Mac's Missing Millions: Plot Turns Abroad in Film Pandering Probe," May 26). As a former — repeat — investor, I hope that Mac is given the chance to finish the film according to his vision. Horace Williams, not Horace Williams, and Horace Williams was fired because he was not a true partner. Mac's vision of the film is complete, and the film should be allowed to be completed. Then, as he has always intended, Mac will repay the lenders with the income from the sales of the film, etc.

Marco Breach
344.620.6262

TAX THE RICH

[Re: *Star Game* "Rich People to the Rescue?" March 26]. The University of Massachusetts Amherst has released a study of taxation that disproves Governor Romney's notion for relying to consider raising taxes on the wealthy to help with the budget problem. Now it's time for the governor to begin acting in all our best interests. As this article reflects, the wealthy are asking to be taxed more, they are the group most able to pay more, balancing the budget by laying off people is counterproductive, and wealthy people do not decide where to live due to taxes. In fact, the study shows that wealthy people are moving into states with higher taxes because their fall is society with better state services, better schools, good roads, safe bridges, low crime. It's time to raise taxes on the wealthy.

Brian Forrest
CLAREMONT



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For One Flood Victim, Vermont's 2-1-1 Help Line Calls Southern Baptists

BY ANDY BRIDGEMAN

Flood victim Roz Payne wasn't looking for divine intervention. She just wanted help salvaging belongings from her waterlogged camp in North Haverhill.

But when a Payne called Vermont's 2-1-1 help line for flood assistance last week, the result was an unexpected—and somewhat—religious experience.

Payne expected that workers dressed in waders would show up to haul junked furniture and a few things worth saving—books, toys and perhaps a bottle of wine (she'd good to drink)—out of her swamped cabin. When the 2-1-1 operator told her someone would come out to inspect the damage from this year's disastrous spring floods.

Instead, Payne got a Southern Baptist minister and his wife who didn't help move a thing.

"They said, 'Should we have a circle?' I didn't know what that meant," Payne says. "In our bible days, the kids would hold hands and go 'September' and you would sign over the hand note to you and that was a circle. All of a sudden it was 'Dear Jesus Christ, we want to call upon you to help us, blah blah blah.' I don't really remember, because in 2001 I heard the Jesus Christ. I blended."

The proper counter to that, Payne, a 70-year-old filmmaker and self-described "irreligious," perceived that the complaint to U.S. Senators Bernie Sanders and Patrick Leahy.

"I do not have bad feelings about the preacher and his wife, but I thought they would help me save some of my things," Payne says. "I do not think holding hands in a circle or the name of Jesus helped to save the contents of my house."

The preacher and wife were part of a small volunteer army of Southern Baptists who arrived two weeks ago to help flooded Vermonters. Southern Baptist Disaster Relief of New England, part of the national Southern Baptist Convention, has so far sent 40 volunteers and four equipment trailers to Vermont to help with flood victims, power wash moldy homes and assist weary flood victims in rebuilding. Nine Baptist teams will arrive soon from Virginia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Using Williston's Christ Memorial Church as a base of operations, the group is dispatching "assessment teams" all over Vermont in response to 2-1-1 calls for assistance. And, whenever possible, they're praying with homeowners.

"Spiritual things," as they refer to it, is a big part of the mission of the 80,000-member Southern Baptist Disaster



Roz Payne

I DO NOT THINK HOLDING HANDS IN A CIRCLE IN THE NAME OF JESUS HELPED TO SAVE THE CONTENTS OF MY HOUSE.

ROZ PAYNE

Relief, according to John Scoggin, director of the New England chapter. Each two-person assessment team has a chaplain ready to administer prayer if the person wants it, says Scoggin, himself a trained chaplain.

But in secular Vermont—indeed the least religious state in a 2009 Pew Center survey—the potential for culture clash runs high, as Payne's experience shows. "I was flummoxed. It was like a theater piece to me," says Payne, a longtime activist who made radical films in the '60s and '70s and has amassed an archive of Black Panther photos, interviews and film reels.

Scoggin says the Southern Baptist volunteers are "very careful not to overstep the spiritual push. We usually do say, 'We are a church organization. Would you mind if we pray for you before we leave today?' That's about as preachy as we get."

Just last week, in fact, Scoggin says a couple with a flooded camp in St. Albans recalled his offer for spiritual assistance. "This is not a force-feeding situation, and we understand that," he says.

Payne's complaint also went to Vermont 2-1-1 and to the Vermont chapter of VOWA, or Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, an umbrella group for organizations that assist in crises, such as the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and the Southern Baptists.

Bill Howell, the president of Vermont VOWA, is aware of Payne's complaint and says he has spoken with a Southern Baptist volunteer coordinator. "So they can try not to put someone in that situation again," Howell also explains why Payne, who lives in Richmond, didn't get help salvaging her things. Her cabin is considered a second home, and those get low priority under the 2-1-1 triage system.

There's been a huge demand for flood assistance. Since late April, Vermont's 2-1-1 line has fielded more than 1000 calls for help, says 2-1-1 director MaryEllen Merrill. All calls are logged and forwarded to Vermont Emergency Management and VOWA, which in turn dispatch teams to assess damage and deploy helpers.

Mark Boonin, the public information officer for VEM, says that in disasters of this magnitude, volunteer organizations such as the Southern Baptists are critically important because they do "very unpleasant work, like packing out basements and separating garbage." For families who don't qualify for Federal Emergency Management Agency relief, it could be the only help they get.

"We have to station—and we should station—in as many voluntary organizations as we can to get people cleaned out, just in case they don't get any funding," Boonin says.

But are soggy Vermonters looking for help? Scoggin says it's "half and half"—some have welcomed project offers but so many. While the state isn't to convert nonbelievers, Scoggin says the Southern Baptists' work can sometimes have that effect.

"If that's something a lot of them might later think about," Scoggin says, "that's enough." ☺

PHOTO BY ANDY BRIDGEMAN

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Shumlin's Veto of Well-Water-Testing Bill Ignores Public Health Risk

BY KEN PICARD

It's ironic that Gov. Shumlin's first and only veto came on the same day he signed into law the state's first single-point health care plan. The bill he killed — 877 — would have required all new private wells in Vermont to be tested for a variety of elements, including arsenic, a known carcinogen.

The bill, which had bipartisan support in the legislature, was designed to protect Vermonters such as 5-year-old Igna Colburn, who became seriously ill in November 2008 immediately after moving in with his grandparents in Whiting. A previously happy, healthy and active child, Igna developed bouts of vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal cramps.

"He was ill, he had no energy and would sleep for hours of the day," recalls his grandmother, Laurel Colburn. "He was just not there. It was very scary."

Doctors ruled out a variety of causes, including Lyme disease, E. coli and food allergies. No one suspected the family's drinking water could be the source of Igna's problems. It came from a small, lined, private well 1000 feet deep, far lower than levels now prone to contamination by agricultural runoff. Moreover, there's no known history of industrial activity anywhere near the 16-acre rural property.

It took six months of visits to Children's Hospital Boston and more than \$40,000 in medical bills, before the family got to a definitive diagnosis: acute poisoning from naturally occurring arsenic in the family's drinking water. Once Igna was taken off the well water, his condition improved almost daily. "Like someone had flipped a switch," Colburn recalls. "It was amazing."

The Colburns learned in June of 877 to spare other families from having to go through the same ordeal. In the next week, Ryan was the "cousin in the red room," who may have saved any one of them from developing a deadly illness.

A further issue: Ryan's grandparents, Carolyn Schmidt and Randy Krikorian, relocated and still work for an international environmental organization, ECOLOGIA, which helps communities in the developing world address such issues as pollution in their public water supplies. Says Krikorian, "If anyone was going to be sensitive to this kind of thing, we should have thought of it."

Shumlin had money, not medicine, on his mind when he killed 877 two weeks ago. In his radio message, he said that he didn't want to impose an additional expense on rural Vermonters. The bill's lead sponsor, Sen. Clancy Lyons (D-Chittenden), wasn't surprised. When Shumlin was in the legislature, she points out, he often displayed a libertarian streak, having voted against Vermont's mandatory seat-belt law and the motorcycle helmet law.

However, much of the public discussion of Shumlin's veto revolves too much on public-health concerns that bill would have addressed. First, about 40 percent of all Vermonters get their drinking water from sources unregulated by state or federal law. Second, data from the Vermont Department of Health, as well as extensive research done by Middlebury College professors and students, suggests that as many as one in four Vermonters may be drinking water with arsenic levels that exceed the maximum levels set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for public water supplies.

Peter Ryan is a professor of geology and environmental studies at Middlebury College. About nine years ago he and his colleagues, including Rita, a geologist at the Vermont Geological Survey, began researching the origin of elevated levels of arsenic, arsenates and alpha radiation that show up in groundwater tracts throughout the state.

Ryan and Rita, who tested hundreds of private wells in Vermont for "everything from arsenic to zinc," soon made a critical discovery: Nearly all the hazardous contaminants showing

up in private wells come from naturally occurring sources. Simply put, the problem is in the rocks.

Currently, Vermont doesn't require any water-quality testing on newly dug wells, as many other states already do. 877 would have changed that. As Ryan points out, well drillers periodically are contacted that have owners get their water tested, particularly in areas of the state where problems have already been identified.

However, Ryan cautions that, unlike some other states with very uniform geology, Vermont's is diverse and complex, making it difficult to predict which elements will show up in the groundwater. And, while some areas of the state have been thoroughly mapped for their subsurface geology, others are unknown because so few groundwater users have been done there.

"We've got a really good spatial picture showing that subsurface Vermont has an elevated incidence of arsenic in drinking water, where about 60 percent of wells I provide we have tested covered what a public water system could legally deliver to its consumers," Ryan says. "That raises real concerns."

Equally troubling, Ryan adds, is that surveys reveal "a pretty big gap between what the public should ideally understand about groundwater and what they do understand."

The good news: Problems like the one the Colburns experienced are relatively cheap and easy to fix. Colburn says a water-quality test that costs \$120 could have saved her family thousands of dollars in medical bills, travel costs and lost wages, not to mention months of pain and suffering for her son. In fact, when the Colburns was diagnosed as the cause of his illness, the family installed a reverse-osmosis water filter under the kitchen sink, which corrected the problem for less than \$1000.

"I very much respect the governor's concerns about personal liberty, personal choice and cost," Colburn says. "But to me, this is preventative health care. It's a no-brainer."

What's the likelihood that this bill will come around again? Depends on who you ask. Rep. David Denio (D-Putney), who chairs the House Bill, Wildlife and Water Resources Committee, says he was shocked by Shumlin's veto.

"We worked with the commissioner of health, and he was in our committee several times that bill was being considered. We incorporated just about all of his suggestions," says Denio. "Does that mean the governor's office was in the room? Well, I think so, but that's not the way it worked out."

Denio believes 877 will "inevitably" be brought up again next year, calling it "a cheap investment" in the future health of Vermonters.

Lyons, who chairs the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, isn't so sure. She's certain about one thing, though: Unless water-quality testing is mandatory, most Vermonters won't do it. ☐

PUBLIC HEALTH

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Will Head-Mounted Video Recorders Help Burlington Police See City Crime?

BY KIM PICARD

Deputy Chief Wolt Becker says his department recently purchased its AXON® units for about \$1000 apiece and has issued them to officers on various shifts around the city as part of a 60- to 90-day pilot project. If the trial run is successful, Becker says the BPD will consider buying more AXON units and issuing them to all field officers. They may eventually replace the force's dashboard cameras.

Several years ago there was a newspaper in Vermont to deploy dashboard cams in all police cars, which significantly improved the prosecution of certain crimes, such as drunk driving and high-speed pursuits. However, dashboard cameras are static and only capture what passes through their field of view. And, as Becker explains, they've been less useful in Burlington, where police encounter most suspects on foot.

Each AXON mobile recorder features a wide-angle video camera and microphone mounted on a headset that resembles a rugged Blackberry device. The officer also carries around a hand-held, a view screen about the size of a palm-and-thumb camera, and a one-button control pad that lets him or her switch quickly between functions.

During an officer's normal activities, the camera runs in "background" mode, which means it's continuously recording but "logging" or writing over the last 30 seconds of data. In effect, an audio/visual file isn't created unless the officer uses a "triggering event," such as a driver running a stop sign, that warrants switching to record mode.

From that point on, the device automatically saves the previous 30 seconds of audio/visual information and continues saving data until the officer switches to another mode. It can also be locked to a specific moment for later viewing. A third, privacy mode switches the camera and microphone off entirely when the

officer enters sensitive areas such as restaurants, dressing rooms, courtyards and private residences. Otherwise, in such circumstances cops are required to inform citizens they are on record mode.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, such as in SWAT team standoffs, the AXON allows police encounters to be observed from a remote location. Two-way radio capability facilitates communication in such instances. The camera also contains a GPS that logs the officer's — and incident's — by location.

At the end of each police shift, the camera is sent placed in a docking station that recharges the battery and automatically uploads the entire digital file to a secure, out-of-state server maintained by Enduris.com, a subsidiary of Taser International. AXON's manufacturer, Becker says that if the department decides to outfit all its officers with cameras, those digital files will be uploaded and stored on-site at BPD's headquarters on North Union.

According to the manufacturer, the AXON unit was specifically designed to prevent anyone from editing, tampering, erasing or downloading the digital record, or using that data in another device. Likewise, the camera cannot store but can only capture the normal field of vision. This, Becker asserts, deters officers from looking into places they couldn't otherwise see with the naked eye.

Yet, even with such safeguards, Becker expects some citizens will voice concerns. For that reason, the BPD issued a new policy directive last month specifying usage guidelines. For example, it bans recording in places where the police has a "reasonable expectation of privacy," except as part of a legitimate law-enforcement activity.

Additionally, the new policy specifically directs officers to "avoid using the AXON to record individuals who are picketing or

engaging in a protest or First Amendment demonstration unless an obvious violation of criminal law is occurring."

When does Becker expect the devices will be most advantageous? During any police encounter, he suggests, that could be clarified by an audio-visual record, especially a stopped vehicle, interviewing a suspect at the scene of a crime or trying to determine the identity of a suspect who fled from police.

Becker also suggests that once people become aware that a mobile recording device is in use, they will be less likely to behave aggressively toward police and others.

"Most people are not going to act out or do something more outrageous if they know it's being recorded," Becker says. "It's definitely a deterrent."

In fact these units may be useful for training purposes, as well as in assessing whether an officer's conduct was appropriate for the situation. Was a cop justified in drawing his or her gun? Was the suspect doing something suspicious with his hands? Did the situation warrant the use of handcuffs or other physical restraints? AXON's records have been used effectively by law-enforcement agencies in other states to corroborate or refute allegations of police brutality.

"I think that, like anything involving cameras, or people monitoring, it raises questions," Becker admits. However, as he points out, this technology is already in the hands of the public, and is routinely used by citizens to document police activities. The beating of Rodney King was captured on video in 1991. "At every bar closing, whenever our officers are involved in an incident, what we're using now are the hands going up with phones and people capturing that event," Becker notes.

New cops will have their names on video, too. ☐

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Q uery: City crime fighting has just entered the age of YouTube. Last week the Burlington Police Department outfitted six of its field officers with head-mounted digital recording devices that can document whatever the cops see and hear during the course of their shifts.

The devices, known as AXON Audio/Video Recorders, are similar in concept to in-car dashboard cameras, except that they capture events from the officer's perspective — as many as eight hours of police activity each day. The BPD expects these mobile units will become valuable tools for prosecuting crimes, reducing hostile encounters with suspects, training new officers and investigating citizens' complaints of police misconduct.

However, as with any new technology adopted by police — the BPD is the first law-enforcement agency in the state to deploy them — the AXON units are likely to raise questions about potential abuses, including erosion of privacy.

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news

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Hannah McHardy

STERLING COLLEGE ALUM JAILED FOR DISRUPTING ARCTIC OIL DRILLING

Prepare to be boarde!

Hannah McHardy, a 25-year-old grad date of Sterling College, was arrested and thrown in jail last week after she and another Greenpeace activist spent four days in an "arctic survival pod" attached to the underside of a massive iceberg off the coast of Greenland. McHardy, who tweeted and blogged the high-stakes hijacking in real time, said in a video from the pod that a 200-ft-long oil spill in the Arctic would make the Gulf of Mexico look like a creek in the park.

"It would not only cost billions of dollars to clean up but would probably affect the environment in a way that would never return this pristine environment to the place that it is right now," she said in the video.

Seven Days readers will recall McHardy in the environmental whirl last month as the potential oil spill opened to immediate attention as an old address note in Eden (See "Miss Our Murmur," November 3, 2010). According to Greenpeace, the Danish Navy released McHardy and her companion from the Greenpeace-owned rig on June 2. One open-layers are waiting for her release from jail in Nuuk, Greenland.

ANDY GREENHAG

2011 COUNT FINDS FEWER HOMELESS IN VERMONT — BUT SOME QUESTION THE NUMBERS

The number of homeless people in Vermont is dropping, according to newly released figures from the 2011 Point In Time Homeless Survey. But some question whether the stats are accurate and reliable.

Although the 14-hour count was conducted on January 26, 2011, delays with the Chittenden County totals stalled the report's release until last week.

The bottom line: Vermont's homeless population at that day, as compared to the one-day count in January 2010, had dropped by 12 percent — from 2,724 to 2,400. In Chittenden County, the number of homeless and precariously housed individuals — people who are couch surfing, bunking with relatives, or sleeping in garages and basements — fell from a record high of 707 last year to 507 this year.

Rita Markley, executive director of Burlington-based emergency shelter provider COTS, says the figures show a clear trend, one she attributes to the modest economic recovery and money pumped into homeless prevention programs. To Markley, the count provides an important snapshot of the state's homeless problem that can be used to shape policy.

"These are people the rest of the world doesn't see, and this is a way to make them real," she says.

But Paul Detman, executive director of the Burlington Housing Authority, says he found individuals counted as homeless who should not have been. Among them: 11 women housed at domestic violence shelter Sophia's Place who have guaranteed Section 8 housing vouchers. The federally mandated survey also found the homeless population of Bennington jumped from 324 last year to 524 today — a calculation Detman says "doesn't pass the straight-face test."

"We're now on the seventh year of Vermont's 10-year plan to end homelessness. We have more shelter beds, and we are spending far more money than we did when we started that program," Detman says. "We're clearly failing, and what's troubling is we continue to do the same things over and over again."

ANDY GREENHAG



VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY: HEALTH CARE SYSTEM GETS IN THE WAY OF DOCS TREATING PATIENTS

Ever wonder why your blood pressure goes up at the doctor's office? It's really not surprising, given you spend 45 minutes reading your old magazines in the waiting room, then another 15 minutes sitting in your underwear before your doctor finally drops in to the exam room for no more than five minutes.

Well guess what? Vermont's docs aren't any happier about the current state of affairs than their patients are. At least, that's one of the major findings in a new report, published June 7, by the Vermont Medical Society Education and Research Foundation. The "2003 Physician Needs Assessment" was

put together from interviews with a broad cross-section of Vermont physicians working in a variety of medical disciplines.

Among the key findings: Vermont physicians say they don't have sufficient time to devote to each patient because more and more time is spent attending to nonmedical — i.e., financial, regulatory and administrative — business.

Vermont docs also express concerns about losing their say in policy making — to politicians — that directly affects their profession. "These trends are leading to a growing number of physicians making the transition from private, independent practice to being employed," the report states.

Finally, physicians fear that Vermont's overall medical workforce is in jeopardy, as shrinking reimbursement rates for patients on government-sponsored plans "diminish the viability of many physician practices."

Incidentally, all these findings are consistent with what Seven Days reported last week (See "Why Is Mount Independent Vermont Doctors Are Joining Hospitals, or Cleaning Up Shop," June 1).

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New YA Books From Vermont, Where Coming of Age Could Mean Tilting at Wind Turbines

BY MERGOT HARRISON & AMY LILLY

Children learn quickly that grown-ups don't tell them everything. But the level of adult secrecy in *Secrets* (Harcourt) by the Ramona and Juliet Cude is out of the ordinary; as preteen readers will recognize, The Middlebury author chose a high point in code breaking and espionage, World War II, for the setting of her fourth young-adult novel. Secrets about, both personal and political, and the promise of their resolution will keep young readers glued to this inventive, historically grounded story.

At age 11, Felicity Turl here Badger is already used to secrets. Her parents — she calls her American dad “my Danny” and her British mom “my Wynne” — have regularly left her alone in their London flat for the evening without explaining what important work kept them away.

But now, in 1941, Felicity's parents have deposited her at the home of her paternal grandmother (“The Grin”) in coastal Maine to keep her safe from bombing raids. In her new American home, a well-torn Victorian “full of ribs and bow,” the mysteries seem to multiply: Why did her parents head back to the bombs? Why does Uncle Gideon seem repelled by Danny — his brother — as person, not man, to meet the mailman and intercept Danny's letters, which are postmarked from Portugal?

The grand piano in the parlor is mysteriously silent; that a picture of Felicity's parents' wedding at the back of The Grin's drawer has a perplexing message of apology scribbled on the back. And who lives behind the bedroom door Felicity has been asked never to open?

Felity — as she's nicknamed by her Grin, uncle and Aunt Mimi, an unrequited romantic who knows Shakespeare's play by heart — realizes she must solve these mysteries on her own. The hidden resident, she soon astutely discovers, is an adopted 12-year-old boy named Derek who's been recovering from polio and mumps



Flay of the wildly boy in *The Secret Garden*. One mystery solved, Flay moves on to the next: She reveals one of the Portugal letters, seen it's written entirely in numbers and cracks the code with Derek's help.

Felity's bedroom is the old house's widow's walk, through whose window on four sides the “big, yellow, noisy American nose” sees all. Flay's first-person narration is as delicately lyrical as that in Stone's first novel, *All the Mar Moons at the Wallace House*. But the girl's quietly incisive, such as noting that the piano is shaped “like the coastline of South America on three legs,” depict an investigative mind just beginning to recognize its own cleverness.

Stone spent a year in England when she was 10. Some of the book's Britishness, such as “I'm not half baffled,” seem wistfully inserted, but Stone shows a deft touch with historical details, such as the gray-painted boat Flay takes to America (evoking the real Queen Elizabeth's covert journey) and President Roosevelt's polio. Unfortunately readers will have to ignore the book's cover, which features anachronistic his-and-her converse sneakers and a hint of physical intimacy not present in the book.

Perhaps a more significant quibble is with Stone's treatment of the story's major secret — adoption, carried on for many years, whose discovery would likely hurt any real child on the cusp of puberty disoriented, confused and angry. Flay takes the revelation with equanimity even excitement; that's hard to believe.

Better, in concrete, to young readers no doubt well, on *The Bones and Juliet Cude's* depiction of a first, wistfully innocent crush.

A.L.

F *The Bones and Juliet Cude* by Phoebe Stone. Arthur A. Levine Books. 258 pages. \$18.95.

BOOKS

Stewart Butler, a character in *Secrets* (Harcourt), will never young-adult novel *Spinning Out*, thinks he's Don Quixote. His Dukinian is the girl contending with him on his high school's playground of *Moon of La Mancha*. And those pearly windmills? Look no further than the line of giant wind turbines on the horizon.

It may sound like just a smart teenager's quirky literary fixation, but Stewart, whose wealthy downstate parents have settled in the Northeast Kingdom, is dead serious. Those turbines are his trouble.

Whisper, who teaches at Lupton Institute and has written several previous YA novels, knows how kids talk and interact — no punches are pulled. His most original move is to make the novel's narrator and protagonist out the troubled Stewart but his best friend, Frenchy, a Vermont native who lives in a trailer with his widowed mom.

Unlike Stewart, Frenchy is known as an outgoing, regular guy — a follower. When Stewart drops him into the school play, he has no trouble stepping into the role of loyal, pally, slightly dim Sanchez Pansa. But Frenchy isn't always pally — he still hasn't processed the death of his dad, a *Guinness* who committed suicide after returning from Iraq. And he isn't dim. He can see Stewart is losing sight of the line between fiction and reality.

It's an excellent setup for a novel, though *Spinning Out* doesn't finally go anywhere that an adult reader won't have predicted. YA novels of the countercultural 1970s (think Paul Zindel) sometimes watched the face out from under their readers, making them wonder who really was crazy and who was sane. Here, it's never in doubt, and therapy and treatment are presented as indispensable solutions.

The book's real subject is one young man's loyalty to another — not a blind or unquestioning sentiment, but a mighty one. Given that “regular guys” like Frenchy don't often have leading roles in fiction, and that those “regular guys” are exactly the type of teens who (dis)obey and parents often haven't read those days, the book could serve a neglected audience. It also reminds us that, for every theoretical teen like Stewart who wears a sardonic to school and wears it around, there are many more tilting at their own private windmills of the mind.

F *Spinning Out* by Stewart Butler Jr., Chronicle Books. 252 pages. \$18.95.

BY H



The genius of good kids' authors is that, without whitewashing or pandering, they can turn ugly realities into age-appropriate (Think of fairy tales, where abuse and abandonment become steps on the heroic path to happily ever after) Burlington author **OWEN LERENTI** pulls off this alchemy in her new middle-grade series for Scholastic, *Dogs of the Greenway*, which tells the story of Hurricane Katrina from the viewpoint of the pet dogs left behind.

The adult reader may cringe at this scenario, which mirrors kids' own fears of abandonment. But young readers will know to expect adventure, humor and surprising resilience in the motley crew of canines that former fighting dog Shop illustrates and leads in search of a home from the storm.

Lerenti lends her protagonist human (and human) character traits and confidence. In real life, straying dog dogs aren't so likely to offer their solidarity and protection to weak-stuff happens. But Shop and his friends still have enough pungent dogness to make the novel work as a modern animal fable. Watery and poetic touches — like a poem's description of her laser toy as a "Bad Dog" ("Crafty, oh an crafty... so they it can never be caught, neither by slow nor fast") — give the novel a whiff of Watership Down. Kids who love dogs and can handle some violent scenes will be itching to get their paws on the next two books in the trilogy.



M 11

f Dogs of the Greenway #1: *The Storm* by Owen Lerenti, Scholastic Press, 203 pages, \$16.95



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Right now nothing sells in YA lit — or, perhaps, in any section of the bookstore — like sexy paranormal erotica. Girls who love of Twilight rubies can move on to series about "hemispherical firmness," as **KATE MESSNER** puts it in her new middle-grade novel, *Sugar and Fox*. It's a mildly satirical job at today's best sellers, since the Plattsburgh writer and teacher — and spouse of WPTZ meteorologist **JOHN MESSNER** — does normal, not paranormal.

Messner's book about a small-town Adirondack girl who gets a big-time figure-skating scholarship is squarely in the tradition of realist kids' fiction — the kind that deals with confronting a false friend, not with convincing

your boyfriend he should make you smile like him. On the strength of her death too long, 12-year-old Clare, whose biggest public exposure has been serving pancakes at her farm family's maple breakfasts, finds herself as Lake Placid facing a Russian coach and a bunch of ice queens who'll do anything to win.


The situation yields the expected drama, and young skating fans will appreciate that Messner knows her way around private and novice competitions, skaters and loops. Some may be disappointed that Clare doesn't become the next Sasha Cohen. Her adults will use the value in a book that suggests it's not always a bad thing to want company instead of competition. "After all this time meaning?" writes Messner, "she still felt more like a honeybee than a butterfly, happier in part of a big swarm than out there shining alone."

M 11

f Sugar and Fox by Kate Messner, Walker & Company, 28 pages, \$16.95

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STATEofTHEarts

Short Takes: Flood Aftermath at Savoy; Bullwhips and Disco at the Lake Placid Film Forum

BY HANDBOT HARRISON

In the early hours of May 22, **CHANDLER PRATT**, a projectionist at Montpelier's **SAVOY THEATRE**, heard his knee pump jump start working. Concerned about flooding at his workplace, he rushed down and found chairs floating in the Savoy's recently renovated basement.

Racked up storm drains resulted in a "gypper coming out of our bar sink," says Savoy owner **TERENCE YOUNG**, who, alerted by Pratt, sped to the theater. When the river finally ebbbed, the water retreated, leaving a foot-high coating of sludge on the space that York, with the help of community donations, had transformed from a video store and storage area into a curvy, hip second screening room with a bar and tables crafted from fire truck.

New York is again going to the core: to raise \$12,000 to repair the damage. So far, the response has been strong: An appeal in the Savoy's casual newsletter resulted in nearly 10,000 donated in two and a half days, says York. He's offering donors the choice of having their name inscribed on a theater bench or a new basement chair.

The evening after the flood, the Savoy suffered a new loss: "We were determined to show the upstairs film," says York. A power outage damaged the surround-sound system and left him "wrestling with the insurance companies."

As far as the basement goes, "we're getting there," says York, who hopes to have the space ready for use in a week. His end phase is host a concert-style live music series down there, at some point also on the Savoy's historic is a transition to digital projection, which would allow the upstairs theater to show out-of-broadcast such as live theater and opera. York wants it to be a beacon site for the California-based **Bassens Conference** in October.

York says the community response to the theater's plight has been "very heartening and humbling." Noting that many Montpelier businesses lost store, he says, "I think we're gonna be OK."

Programming at the annual **LAKE PLACID FILM FORUM** always has an out-of-left-field quality, and this year is

no exception. In a nod to Lake Placid's Olympic glory, the June 16 to 19 festival includes the documentary *Base*, about the plane crash that devastated American figure skating and 1994, chronicling the efforts of female skaters to join Olympic competition.

In a different vein, there's *Readers of the Lost Ark: The Adaptation*, a short film that recalls of Steven Spielberg's blockbuster crafted by three cash-strapped but very obsessed young Mississippians. Two of the filmmakers—who were 12 when they undertook their quixotic seven-year project, in 1993—will be at the fest, all grown up, for a Q&A.

In the 1990s, critics called New York filmmaker **WHAU (Shoreline)** the heir to Woody Allen. Find out what

I THINK WE'RE GONNA BE **OK**
TERENCE YOUNG
OWNER SAVOY THEATRE

he's been doing lately when *Shifano* appears at the **LOFT** to screen scenes from his upcoming film alongside his last one, *The Last Days of Disco* (1999), a love song to Manhattan nightlife in the early '80s.

Vermont isn't represented this year at the **Shapins** in Lake Placid 24-hour film competition. But expect to see *Shifano* on film in *The Blood in This Town*, the first of a second-length blood-draw short's been making the rounds of local fests and sparking discussions of *Shifano*'s renewed community spirit. In the North Country Shifano, look for "Degas" by **MICHAEL FENNER** of Burlington, in which local actress **JANE SHAMPOIN** plays a woman accused to have premeditated it at www.shifano.com/14273031. 02

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WHISKEY TANGO FOXTROT

We just had to ask...

Why are the conifers along the highway so brown?

BY MEGAN JAMES

On any given stretch of my daily commute between Montpelier and Burlington, I am, for all intents and purposes, a zoologist. I climb into my car in the morning, and 40 minutes later I arrive, never really knowing how I got there or what I passed along the way. But over the past few weeks, even my unaided brain has taken note of the deep brown pine trees standing in rugged rows along the highway.

In contrast to the nearly neon hues of the birch buds bursting out around them last month, these conifers were an especially arresting sight. To me they looked like hardened leeches who'd ridden out one unforgiving winter after another. They made the fresh green of their deciduous neighbors look almost foolish. They also looked exhausted.

So, what's the deal? Are the pine needles badly damaged? Or do they just look dead? What causes their needles to brown, and why does it seem worse this spring than before?

Most Vermonters know the browned-twig occurs every year as a result of road salt, which flies up off the highways and washes into the soil all winter long. Eventually, it dries out the trees, assembles landscape coordinator for the Vermont Agency of Transportation Craig Daubton. Typically 5 to 10 percent of trees along heavily traveled roads are affected, he says, the most susceptible are red and white pine. A chloride concentration of just 1 percent in those species can cause "extensive plant injury," he wrote in a 1993 VT news report.

And it's not just the trees directly beside roadways. Damage occurs within 10 feet upstate and 40 feet downstate from the road, depending on a host of factors including precipitation, exhaust emissions from passing vehicles, temperature, light, humidity, wind exposure and drainage.

What kind of injury are we talking? Well, it depends. Most trees damaged by the salt spray alone shed their brown

needles and quickly grow new foliage in the spring. Pines shed their needles annually, just like deciduous trees, but without all the red-and-orange flare. Still, those pines affected by salt in the soil beneath them have a rougher time. The chloride ions may cause new needles to die, which "could be lethal to the entire plant if it happens for several consecutive years," writes Daubton.

Ginger Anderson, chief of forest management for the state, says it may appear that more trees are suffering than usual this spring because the Vermont Agency of Transportation has been experimenting with new road-salting methods, namely salt brine. The northwest corner of Vermont, along Interstate 88 from St. Albans to Bolton, has been the testing ground for the new method, and that may explain why some trees look so ragged.

In 2008, when the AOT launched the brine project, Vermont was spending more than \$15 million each winter on road maintenance and an additional \$4 million annually on the 75,000 tons of salt and 20,000 tons of sand it dumps on the roads. The agency was looking for ways to cut costs and reduce the environmental damage caused by salt and sand while making the winter roads safer for drivers. Jennifer Finch, who runs the research program for the AOT, believes they are on to something with the salt brine. "We've found it to be really positive," she says.

What is salt brine, exactly? It's just a salt-and-water solution — 23 percent salt, 77 percent water. This is sprayed on roads by fancy STRATUS trucks, each of which can cover up to four lanes at once. Rather than leaving behind a narrow area of highly concentrated rock salt, as the traditional trucks do, these distribute the brine at high speed over a wide expanse.

The trouble with traditional rock salt and sand — besides the cost — is

that, without enough moisture on the road, a lot of it just bounces right off. That may seem weird, since salt is typically spread on roads wet with snow. But a single rock-salt crystal is about a quarter of an inch thick. It takes a lot of snow to dissolve something that big. Salt in the brine is already dissolved, so it sticks to the road right away. Except, the agency found, at temperatures below 10 degrees, when the brine just refreezes.

The traditional method does have environmental problems, too. Road-salt-and-sand pollutants from the road get carried off into the soil and streams, where it causes erosion, pollutes the water and smothers fish spawning beds. Salt also binds for streams, where it increases the water's chloride content, and, of course, to the soil, where it seeps into the roots of trees. Brine has less run-off, just a mist that rises and affects surrounding foliage.

According to Finch, districts that experimented with the brine ended up using 88 percent less salt than they had in previous years, and officials thought they'd kept the roads just as safe for motorists, if not safer. "Over the last couple years, it's been so successful, [the AOT] is expanding the project," she says.

What does that mean for the salt-looking brown conifers? "Trees along the interstate have a hard life, anyway," says Anderson. "The salt doesn't help them." Still, she says, only the smallest and least vigorous of the trees experience serious damage. "My gut tells me it's a lot better to have a few dead pine needles than to have more salt in our watersheds." ☐

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Dear Cecil

[Concerning your April column on whether nuclear power is safe:] Nuclear power sucks. Coal power sucks more. Reggles my mind that we don't just ditch them both and use options we know are better. Randev, via the Straight Dope

A Message Randev, a whole lot to alternative energy. You think if we build a enough wind-mills, install enough solar panels and dam it enough ethanol from corn we'll be able to dispense with nuclear energy sources such as coal and nuclear power. I admit that noble goal one needs to ask, however, whether it's actually possible. Let's browse among the databases and see what we can find out.

Here's part the thing—a 1086 paper by Massachusetts Institute of Technology chemistry professor Daniel Nocera titled "On the Future of Global Energy" Nocera's twofold ambition. One, to see how much energy the world is going to need by mid-century. Two, to figure out where we might get it. Glancing through this, Randev, I have to be honest: Things are looking a little grim.

The first thing we learn is that, according to United Nations experts, world population is expected to reach around nine



billion people by mid-century and then stabilize. The stabilization part is good, if maybe surprising to those used on scare talk about the population explosion. The bad part is that nine billion is two billion more than we're got now. Given that almost half the world lives on less than \$2.50 a day as it is, you can appreciate that coming up with enough food, shelter and, yes, energy to keep everybody happy is going to be a challenge.

The second thing to understand is that we damn well better keep everybody happy. The prediction that world population is expected to stabilize is based on

the observation that, as people become more urbanized and at least a little more prosperous, they have smaller families. That's a worldwide trend. In Japan and much of Europe, in fact, the population is actually *declining*. The flip side is that if people remain impoverished villages, they continue having big families and total world population keeps going up. In other words, a stable future is predicated on a moderate of global urban affluence. To the extent the world stays rural and poor, eventually much of it starves.

The third thing to understand is that the more efficient people become, the more energy they use. That doesn't necessarily mean U.S.-style two-5776-and-a-wrencher home-type efficiency. Most of the world would be

content with, you know, running water and some electric lights.

How much energy will that take? In 2000, Nocera points out, global energy consumption was 15.6 terawatts. What will it be in 2050? If everybody were to burn through the price of the current U.S. rate, Nocera calculates, we'll need 103 terawatts—seven times as much. Chances of our producing that are zero.

Instead, Nocera conservatively pegs annual global energy usage circa 2050 at between 26 terawatts—which assumes average consumption at the same rate as in present-day Poland—and 35 terawatts, roughly the rate now seen in Japan. You may say Japan sounds like a lifestyle I could get used to. That's sporting of you, but it still means we'll need about 25 to 40 more terawatts of energy than we're consuming right now.

Where will it come from? Nocera runs through some possibilities:

- First, biomass. If we devote all the arable land on Earth to energy production rather than food crops and presumably just don't eat, we could produce 2.1 terawatts.
- Next, wind. If we build wind farms on 100 percent of the surface windy land, we could produce 2.1 terawatts.
- Third, hydroelectric. If we dam all the remaining rivers, we could come up with 0.7 to 2 additional terawatts.

• Finally, nuclear. I know you don't like nuclear, Randev, but the professor's nuclear aim was to turn up all power sources that aren't net emitters of greenhouse gases. He thinks we could produce 8 terawatts by constructing 5000 nuclear power plants, which would mean one new plant every two days for the next 40 years.

Total around 16 to 22 terawatts. In other words, if we sequence out every available watt of alternative energy on the planet and build nuclear at an impossibly aggressive rate, we'll barely keep up with the energy needed to support even a modest standard of living for the world's people.

In reality we'll need to find additional energy somewhere. Nocera's solution is to push for a technological breakthrough in solar power, currently a relatively trivial contributor to the world energy mix. Good luck, seriously. Barring that, however, we're stuck with more coal, oil and gas, and you know the problems with those.

My point isn't that the situation is hopeless, although a certainly gives one pause. All I'm saying is we need to do dispense with the illusory notion of "alternative" energy, which suggests we'll get to be cheery about energy sources. Sorry, not going to happen. We'll have to use the old ol' O.

I want to know something you need to get straight: Cecil Adams can't take time to do the Straight Dope on any topic. While Cecil Adams at the Straight Dope is in North Chicago, IL 60064, or at www.straightdope.com.

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SEVEN DAYSIES

2011 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

Time to Pick the Daysies Again!

Ready to show some love? Welcome to the ninth annual Daysies Awards. From restaurants and wineries to yoga studios and pet daycare, this is your chance to nominate beloved Vermont businesses and individuals.

To keep things fresh, we've added some new categories and done away with others. We traded in the musical categories that have long been dominated by heavyweights Grace Potter and Gordon Stone. We still love 'em, but we'd like to give props to Vermont's bright but under-the-radar stars.

We also added some new food categories this year to draw attention to the state's cheese makers, wineries and farmers.

Like we did last year, we'll give awards to winners both inside and outside Chittenden County for categories with enough votes to warrant the distinction.

We encourage you to fill out the survey online at sevendaysies.com. It's not that we don't like good ol' snail mail; it's just that we're trying to avoid a long night of counting ballots by hand. (It'll also save us from a poisoning over undesirable handwriting.)

If you don't have access to the Internet—or you're hell bent on filling this out the old-fashioned way—write your answers on a separate piece of paper, clip it to this ballot and send it to **Seven Days, P.O. Box 884, Burlington, VT 05402**. Please write legibly and be as specific as you can. If we can't read or understand your response, it won't count.

Have fun picking your faves! And find out the winners in our special Daysies issue on August 8.

RULES

Voters should fill out only one ballot, whether online or on paper. Evidence of ballot duplication will result in all those ballots being disqualified.

Voters must fill out at least 50 answers for their ballot to be counted.

Play fair: Payday candidates? Campaigning to win is OK, but no bribes or rewards for votes, please! Evidence of this will result in disqualification and bad karma.

About You

1. Your age range: Under 18 18-25
26-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65+

2. Your gender: Female Male Other

3. Town of residence:

Best Food & Drink

4. Restaurant, if you're paying

10. Burger

5. Restaurant, if they're paying

11. Creative/steak

6. New restaurant (opened in the last 12 months)

12. Brewpub

7. Breakfast/brunch

13. Vermont craft beer

8. Lunch

14. Vermont winery

9. Asian restaurant (excluding sushi)

15. Bar

10. Non-Asian ethnic restaurant

16. Coffee/tea house

11. Restaurant to take the kids

17. Bakery

12. Late-night snacks

18. Street eats

13. Pizzeria (restaurant)

19. Ethnic market

14. Pizzeria (delivery)

20. Natural-foods market

15. Vermont cheese

21. Farmers-market vendor

22. Wine seller

23. Vegetarian fare

24. Cakes

BALLOT DEADLINE:
JUNE 24, 2011, AT 5 P.M.

SEVEN DAYSIES

2011 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

...AND A LITTLE FROM EVERYWHERE

Best Arts, Entertainment & Recreation

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 31. Large live music venue | 46. Movie theater |
| 32. Small local music hot spot | 47. Museum |
| 33. Place to dance | 48. Festival |
| 34. Up-and-coming musical performer | 49. Outdoor concert series |
| 35. Unsigned Vermont band | 50. Fiction writer |
| 36. Side musician | 51. Poet |
| 37. Vermont hip-hop artist | 52. Theater company |
| 38. Independent music promoter | 53. Performing arts venue |
| 39. Local record label | 54. Recreation area |
| 40. Vermont standup comedian | 55. Public golf course |
| 41. Club DJ | 56. Snow slope |
| 42. Visual artist | 57. Agricola |
| 43. Cartoonist | 58. Cross-country ski area |
| 44. Art gallery | 59. Weekend getaway in Vermont |
| 45. Vermont craft gallery | |

Best Media

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 60. Print/web journalist | 84. Radio station |
| 61. TV newscast | 85. Vermont blogger |
| 62. Meteorologist | 86. Vermont Twitter feed |
| 63. Local radio DJ | |

Best Services & Stuff

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 67. Women's casual clothing | 69. Place to rent a movie |
| 68. Women's evening wear | 90. Internet service provider |
| 69. Men's clothing | 91. Web developer |
| 70. Shoe store | 92. Bridal shop |
| 71. Vintage/heritage clothing | 93. Vermont wedding venue |
| 72. Children's clothing | 94. Florist |
| 73. Eyeglasses | 95. Outdoor outfitter |
| 74. Local jewelry designer | 96. Bike shop |
| 75. Jewelry store | 97. Auto dealer |
| 76. Beauty product purveyor | 98. Real estate agency |
| 77. Pet daycare | 99. Garden center |
| 78. Pet store | 100. Green Vermont business |
| 79. Toy store | 101. Place to do your banking |
| 80. Musical instrument store | 102. Place to buy a pipe |
| 81. Record store | 103. Adult toy store |
| 82. Bookstore | 104. Hair salon |
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Crisis Intervention

June 5 was the 30th anniversary of the first diagnosis of AIDS. It's a reminder of what has, and has not, changed since 1981. Much is understood about HIV/AIDS, much isn't. The disease can be prevented but not cured. It is no longer a killer — for those who have the money for medicine and ability to practice self-care.

That leaves out lots of people, from drug addicts to prisoners to homeless kids. In sub-Saharan Africa, the disease has orphaned three in 10 children.

Peter Jacobson, executive director of Vermont CARES, says that of the roughly 600 cases of HIV/AIDS in the state, his organization serves about one-quarter annually and almost every case of those is among Vermont's poorest — earning less than \$10,000 a month. In 2010 the state's share of Vermont CARES' \$452,000 direct services budget went to keeping these clients housed and fed — necessities without which they cannot begin to follow the medical regimens that enable them to work, care for kids or simply feel well. Ten percent was spent on "emergency assistance." But, says Jacobson, "For our people, AIDS is the emergency every single day."

This is the state that pioneered civil unions. Says Jacobson, "We do a lot of soul-searching around that dichotomy."

The dichotomy — in which some people move toward greater inclusion and others drift further out — may be inevitable as long as there is class. But political strategies can exacerbate it — or not. So, it's instructive to look back three decades and examine what early AIDS activists did right.

Of course, class, race and education gaps existed then, too. In the gay "community" of New York's West Village, a designer with gay-themed poos and an Armenian street would drink his gin and at a sidewalk cafe, while a few blacks wore a handsome black transvestite turned tricks for drug money.

Then, out of nowhere, the designer and the bartender started finding lesions on their skin, then started coughing, wheezing away — and dying. Officials ignored them both. To President Reagan and his Christian Right advisers, they were the same: sinners being punished. For eight years, Reagan did not publicly utter the word AIDS.

Almost as far as the U.S. fell, though, a political movement rose — one of the

most passionate, smart and courageous in U.S. history. That movement, however, faded because of a bizarre presidency. Its members were largely white, middle class, educated and concerned. But they were also homosexual, and for this they were despised.

They were, in other words, at once privileged and marginalized, powerful and powerless. And their money and connections helped make the movement viable.

But the movement's marginalization — and grief and fury — also gave it the radical solidarity that finally forced America to pay attention, fund research, and get drugs and services to patients.

ACT UP, the movement's flagship, was not a self-help group, not a disease advocacy community like the people who solicit money for cystic fibrosis or ALS. Led by men and women with roots in the Left and feminism, an cry for medicine and compassion for gay people was linked to a demand for universal health care and as such to ally-ship. The first AIDS activists didn't just want help. They wanted justice.

Meanwhile, the disease-prevention strategy devised by the public health establishment in the 1960s seemed designed to splinter any broader social solidarity. Rather than prescribing condoms and sex-practicing unsafe practices (there was vague language about not exchanging "bodily fluids"), propaganda advised steering clear of "unsafe" people. The world was divided in two. One category was the "risk populations" — gay men, Haitian immigrants (some of whom arrived with HIV symptoms) and drug users. The other comprised everyone else — the "legitimate" citizen. It was assumed that no responsible beholder would ever accept cocaine, no married man would dally at the bath, no Haitian immigrant would have a baby with a native-born American.

And while adults were told to avoid sex with "risk people," youth were exhorted to "Just Say No" — to foreswear premarital sex altogether. Needless to say, this did not work.

AIDS activists rejected these stratagies. Downplayed by policy as "victim" who should be victimized, they

embraced their outsider status — in the same way they had proudly appropriated the epithets "queer" and "dyke" flung by predators for their own deaths, they refused to repent for their "promiscuity." Instead, gay activists used the sexual culture of their communities to shape antistigmatous sex education.

These grassroots educators recognized that the affections and affiliations of friendship, sex, loving sex, even among women, was creating

relationships that all could encounter. One psychologist studying this phenomenon in the 1990s compiled her paper "Trust as a Risky Practice."

The notion that the straight line is the safe line reconstitutes the wheezy old theory of "risk groups," and with it the complacency of those who think they're not in one.

It reinforces the dichotomy that the folks at Vermont CARES scratch their heads over — between gay and lesbian making steady progress toward the center while their sibling brothers and sisters (and sibling straight people) languish at the edges.

It's not that Vermont's LGBTQ community is turning its back on the nearly forty percent at Vermont CARES' doors are gay and lesbian. But clarity is not the same as solidarity. Though necessary, service is not politics. If assistance it does not transform. And assimilation, the primary goal of today's movement, often has the unintended effect of further marginalizing those who cannot or do not want to assimilate.

Back when death stalked through a marginalized community and most others looked away, the queer response was not to try to gain rights by assimilating into a hostile mainstream. Instead, that community embraced its radical differences. In a sex-condemning nation, activists used pleasure to empower, protect and unite. In learning how to save their own lives, they saved those who thought they were safe, too. ☐

THE FIRST AIDS ACTIVISTS
DIDN'T JUST WANT HELP.
THEY WANTED JUSTICE.

could be women into a fabric of sexual and an inventive culture of sexual styles and acts could be mined for new, safer pleasures. And the lessons of public sex — the back rooms and baths — could become the networks to promote, and sustain, those practices.

They invented safe sex, still the only preventive that works.

Today, the responses that didn't work are institutionalized. While disease-prevention information millions of American children, health ministries that receive federal aid promote the HIV-prevention slogan "ABC: Abstinence, Be Faithful, Use Condoms" ABC is based in part on the illusion that pornography is a prophylactic against sexual danger. In fact, research shows that both gay and straight people are more likely to have unsafe sex — and ask no questions about HIV status — inside committed

DESCENDING THE PEAK

Vermonters in the Transition Town movement address an uncertain energy future

BY LAUREN OBER

The table at the back of the Staples Room in Montpelier's Redlogg Hubbard Library holds a colorful bounty of prepared dishes. There's a pot of minestrone chili, a slab of braised quiche, a loaf of freshly baked zucchini bread and a bowl of salad inside with eggs laid first morning by backyard chick coos. There's so much food that no empty spot is left on the table, but that's good, because there are a lot of mouths to feed.

About 65 people have squeezed themselves into the small community room on this Sunday afternoon — the highest turnout yet in the essay series of discussions, but they're here to talk about a death — specifically, an impending death of oil on the planet.

It's not a topic that would draw most people out of bed, let alone to a meeting in a stuffy library on a sunny weekend day. But increasingly, at least in central Vermont, peak oil is on people's minds. And understandably so. A growing body of scientific evidence suggests we have reached, or will soon reach, the point at which half of global oil reserves are gone. And considering that everything from sneakers to computers to contact lenses is made from oil, that prospect threatens life as we know it.

The potluck is one of a handful of events organized by Transition Towns Montpelier, a diffuse but burgeoning social movement dedicated to helping people build resilient communities to prepare for the twin challenges of peak oil and climate change. The Montpelier

group is one of 90 official Transition Initiatives operating in the United States and one of 1,000 such efforts worldwide.

The idea underlying a Transition Town is that, currently, communities are not prepared to weather a major climate disaster or energy crisis. Much of what we consume is made with oil or requires oil to get to us. We rely heavily on imports, because local economies provide only a sliver of what we need to survive.

As crude oil prices climb and increasingly extreme weather events wreak havoc around the world, some communities are seeking ways to deal with what they consider inevitable changes. If oil becomes so scarce that it's prohibitively expensive or disappears altogether, how will we carry on?

Transition Initiatives help people prepare for and adapt to a future beyond fossil fuels through the two pillars of

transition philosophy: relocalizing and resiliency. The movement's devices range from, by producing some or at least of what we need in our own communities — food, clothing, medicine, building materials — we will be able to withstand severe climate, energy and economic shock while actually improving our quality of life.

"This is an opportunity to take the future in our own hands," says Carolyn Stupica, executive director of Transition United States, based in Petaluma, Calif.

The transition movement began just five years ago in Totnes, England, and has spread to 34 countries and more than half of the States. The concept of Transition stems from the work of a permaculture teacher and natural builder named Rob Hopkins, who sought a

pragmatic solution to the world's warming energy and climate turmoil. In his 2006 book *The Transition Handbook: From Oil Dependency to Local Resilience*, published by White River Junction's Chelsea Green, Hopkins outlines strategies for preparing communities as they face potentially dire changes. He sums up the movement's mission this way:

Rebuilding local agriculture and food production, lessening energy production, rethinking health care, reimagining local building materials in the context of zero energy building, rethinking how we manage waste, all build resilience and offer the potential of an extraordinary renaissance — economic, cultural and spiritual.



PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM

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Descending the Peak

BY JEFF

THE BUILDER



Michael builds Ben Graham's studio in a greenhouse addition to his building in Phileas.

When Ben Graham was an architecture student at Rhode Island School of Design, his professors questioned his passion for natural building. They didn't consider making dwellings from cob and clay sophisticated enough to be called architecture with a capital A. But Graham was undeterred.

Years later, among the professors he dismissed, Graham is on the cutting edge of sustainable architecture and design. And he's spreading his skills and knowledge as chair of Transition Three Montpelier's newest working group, focused on shelter.

The planet is changing dramatically, she says, but she won't sure what to do about it. The Transition Three model gave her a road map for moving forward.

"What worked for me is that it focuses clearly on what we're going to do, not what we're going to avoid," McClary says. "We are in strain. It's happening. It's real on all levels, from spiritual to physical to ecological to social."

Rather than first about potential changes on the horizon, McClary, who when she subscribes to transition philosophy, sees them as opportunities. She's looking forward to learning slowing down and turning inward. And she's enjoying the conversations that have already happened about how to prepare for a future with less.

"There's nothing that can replace the amount of energy fossil fuels give us. We won't be a globalist, we'll be more localized," she says. "When you're connected to the Earth, you're more likely to take care of it. You're less likely to asphalt over your dandelion greens when that happens to be your vegetable for the day or week or month."

McClary realizes not everyone is going to evacuate her and go back to the land. But the point of transition isn't panic; it's about the adaptability and resilience people need to improve their present options.

"Peak oil says we're going to change, climate change says we should change, and Mother Earth says, 'You'd do what I damn well will not,'" McClary suggests. "What will happen, will happen."

Graham, a 36-year-old with a long, red, knotted goatee and wild eyebrows, has been a builder for as long as he can remember. He comes from a family of builders, and the trade is in his blood. His hand timbering is his father's workshop and making models, that he would go into architecture was a foregone conclusion.

During a trip to the West Coast during college, he learned about natural building. "I took a tour of one of these earth-sheltered houses, and I was like, 'Holy shit! This is fucking cool,'" he says. "It was just one of those moments that changed my life. I said, 'This is what I want to do.'"

Originally from Cleveland, Graham moved to Vermont in 2000 after falling in love with the state during a hike trip. Shortly after, he started his own company, Natural Design/Build. In 2000, he built his first straw-bale house.

For Graham, the Transition Three model of redefining needs with his own design principles — using "bioregional" materials to build ecologically sound dwellings. His building materials aren't made from petroleum and come primarily from the earth.

"If you said, 'OK, you can build this house out of foam and aluminum siding and pressure-treated wood. Or you can build this other house from trees and dirt and rocks?' And it's like, 'doh, you know?' Graham says as he sketches the plans for a greenhouse/bivouac building.

Not only does he believe natural building makes sense in terms of energy conservation and resource management, but Graham says, it represents how humans were meant to live. We aren't built for living in concrete structures with vinyl siding and fiberglass insulation, he claims.

"We're taking this old technology and developing it for present modern living," Graham says. "People have it ingrained in their bodies to live in structures made out of natural materials, and that's why we're tweaked now, because we're living in these weird things."

In an effort to spread the gospel of natural building, Graham helped found Village-building Convergence, a sustainable skill-sharing conference of sorts that is part of Transition Town Montpelier. On June 14, Graham, who regularly teaches at Vermont Green Design/School in Waterford, will present a workshop on practical solutions for sustainable shelter. He'll recruit participants that, with all the mainstream "greening" of home construction these days, it's easy to forget that people have been living in natural structures forever.

"I'm trying to make natural building accessible to everyone," Graham says. "We're showing engineers that natural materials actually perform better than the other side that you're working with that's actually destroying the planet. But it's not easy to convince the people."

THE NEOPHYTE

If there is an antitypical Transition Town member, Deb Lissman isn't it. Until recently, she held a corporate job, admits she's no good at gardening, and has always held a dim view of activism.

But for the last two years, Lissman has been knee-deep in all things transition. She wants to learn how to homestead. She's becoming well-versed in emergency preparedness strategies. And she's working to

build a network of neighborhoods in Montpelier, where she lives.

This transition to Transition Town happened concurrently with what the 50-year-old calls a "midlife crisis kind of thing." She was working in leadership development at Green Mountain Coffee Roasters when she decided she needed a change. She took a four-month sabbatical to help her figure out her next move.

During that time, Lissman, an enthusiastic talker with short, dark hair and an eager smile, researched renewable resources topics, hoping one would spark her interest, the kept returning to sustainability.

In 2006, Lissman went to a lecture given by Noreen Gitzgarden, a co-founder of Transition Town Tama, she was hooked.

"It was completely positive, community building. It was about creating a resilient community that has much more of a sense of community," Lissman says. So inspired was Lissman by the presentation and the concept of transition

PEOPLE HAVE IT
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THESE WEIRD THINGS.

BEN GRAHAM
NATURAL BUILDER

that she began working on her own community's resiliency by building a website aimed at connecting her neighborhood. The neighborhood network never quite took off, but Lissman's organizing gusto caught the eye of McCleery, as Transition Town Montpelier was just getting off the ground. McCleery asked Lissman to consider joining the group's steering committee.

These early days weren't easy for Lissman. "I didn't know what everyone else knew," she says. "But I just continued to learn as I went."

She taught herself a stack of books on peak oil, community building and local food systems. She participated in workshops and garden tours. She tried to figure out

how to make her lifestyle more sustainable. All of it was outside her comfort zone.

"I'm a average citizen," Lissman says. "I do everything wrong."

Except she doesn't. She's not perfect, but she's embraced transition. Little by little, Lissman is making changes in her life, the biggest being realizing herself to handle some kind of crisis.

A year ago, Lissman quit her job at GMAC. In that time, she has been working as NeighborNet, an initiative aimed at connecting people who live in close proximity. She has designed a curriculum for neighborhoods to determine how prepared they are to weather an emergency such as a power outage — or, closer to home, serious flooding. The seven-week course revolves around a series of pathfinders where neighbors examine key areas of survival and preparedness. People who feel informed and connected will experience less panic if a crisis does happen, Lissman says.

Rather than giving her discussions a doom-and-gloom tinge, Lissman tries to make them fun — hence the potluck format. That way, drawing participants becomes more of a pull than a push, she says.

Lissman's zeal for neighborhood organizing and emergency planning still surprises her. But she's settling into her role and growing more comfortable by the day.

"It's really bizarre, the fact that I'm into it," Lissman says, laughing. "But it feels like the right thing to do."



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Descending the Peak and beyond

Wayne Oldham
of Montpelier



THE PRAGMATISTS

Wayne and Jen Oldham were living in Salt Lake City when Wayne first picked up a copy of *The Transition Handbook*. Bob Hopkins' post-punked mental illness has interested in alternative energy since the 1970s, Wayne was intrigued by the guide and its strategies for building resilient, food-had-free communities.

But no one in Salt Lake seemed to get it. Or, if anyone did, the Oldhams couldn't find them. So, when Jen started from her management job at JPM Health Information Systems, the couple began writing a new home where transition was understood. After much research, they settled on Montpelier, which seemed to have a vibrant and growing Transition Town movement.

The couple have been in Montpelier only nine short months, but already they're rolled up their sleeves and started to work. Jen is interested in local food systems, while Wayne is passionate about developing Transition Town Montpelier's Energy Descent Action Plan. Together they have been working on a project that would marry elements of the state's farm-to-plate initiative with a more comprehensive sustainable energy plan.

Both Wayne, 66, and Jen, 64, are re-emergence misadventurers who met as undergrads at the University of Michigan. Wayne, who has a shock of white hair and sky-blue eyes, spent much of his career as a medical researcher, but harbored a desire to run a sustainable non-profit. Jen, a mother-of-two woman who is not afraid of a

challenge, has always loved cooking and preparing the food her husband grew. Together they make a formidable, motivated team.

As they explore their work with Transition Town Montpelier, the Oldhams talk over each other, such as their enthusiasm. They frank each other's weaknesses as they convey their seriousness about creating change to protect their community from what they see as the inevitable end of the oil age.

But, in parenthesis as they are about transition, the couple are realistic enough to know that many people find discussions of peak oil daunting and off-putting. They understand that not everyone can do everything in service of transition goals.

"A lot of this depends on whether people have the time, effort or the means," Wayne says. "A lot of people have full-time jobs and kids to take care of. How do people like that have the time? And do they have the interest and inclination?"

"I'm a little less dogmatic than some [involved in transition]," Jen says. "I just want people to be aware. I can't change people's minds. But eventually they'll get it when they're paying \$2 for a tomato."

The Oldhams' facility was there apart from some of their Transition Town commitments. But they still feel part of the community and enjoy the camaraderie that comes with the movement. They believe it designed to create room for all kinds.

"Everyone can find their niche," Wayne says. ☐

Find a community or contact a local one. Visit www.transitionnetwork.org for a list of local groups and contact information.

One of the working groups of Transition Town Montpelier Village began in 2009. Community is held up as a 10-step process to build a new, more sustainable village. June 10, the VTC is a community wide celebration of sustainable living practices. Residents are invited to bring their own food and drinks to a picnic in the park. The event will include a presentation on sustainable design, including building and building on the site. Residents are invited to bring their own food and drinks to a picnic in the park. The event will include a presentation on sustainable design, including building and building on the site. Residents are invited to bring their own food and drinks to a picnic in the park. The event will include a presentation on sustainable design, including building and building on the site.

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Acid Trip

Vermont's viperHouse reunite after a decade apart

BY DAN ROLLES

The year was 2001. The first film in the Merry Potter series was the year's top-grossing movie, currently adorning out the first installment in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. *Twist* Warner merged with *América Online*. A Republican senator, Jim Jeffords of Vermont, shifted the balance of power by becoming an Independent. John Lee Hooker, George Harrison, Duke Barnhardt and Ken Kesey died. A tragedy on a bright September morning changed the country forever. And somewhere in upstate New York — Syracuse! — viperHouse unconsciously played their final show, ending the group's run as one of Vermont's most successful and innovative ensembles of the era.

A decade later, viperHouse are back, playing a reunion show this Thursday as part of the 2011 Burlington Discover Jazz Festival.

The band formed in 1995 under the watch of composer and multi-instrumentalist Michael Chorney, who has, since viperHouse's demise, gone on to lead a number of other local groups and earn international renown for his contributions to Anna Mitchell's folk opera *Rainforest*. At the time, Chorney had been playing saxophone with another Vermont combo, the So-Called Jazz Quintet, but was looking for a new outlet.

"I had this idea to put together a big band," says Chorney. Indeed, viperHouse's original lineup consisted as many as 10 members. It reads like the roster of an all-star band: keyboardist Ray Puckerman (Tony Anastasio Band), vocalist and flute player Heloise Williams (Heloise & the Seven Fairs), guitarist Brett Hughes (Chrome Cowboys, Rumble Down), bassist Rob Morse (Vortex, r0USing Places), and drummer Phil Carr; transposer Brian Rogers, violinist Kevin Quinn, percussionist RJ Savadkin and trombonist Dan McEach. The band was also multi-generational — its youngest member was Morse, at 22 its oldest, Carr, then 98.

"The big thing was to find people whose chemistry I felt would work together," says Chorney.

He describes the local music scene in the mid- to late 1990s as saturated with jazz bands and jazz-funk hybrid acts, neither of which particularly excited him.

"A lot of what was going on in the scene in Burlington at the time was under this umbrella of acid jazz," Chorney says. "I wasn't interested in that at all, really. But I saw it



MUSIC

as a good in her folks to go out and listen to interesting horn arrangements and improvisation."

Because of the prevalence of the genre at the time, and because the band featured horns and explosive improvisation, viperfloss were often lumped into the category of acid jazz, a description that makes Chorney bristle.

"We weren't 'acid jazz' at all," he says. "We were trying to subvert that." He goes on to describe the band's "twofold mission."

The first aspect of the viperflossian ethos was to trick audiences into appreciating more cultured instrumental arrangements under the guise of high-octane dance music. "We wanted to be able to sneak in arrangements that were hopefully sophisticated somewhat, while there was an incredibly driving groove going on," Chorney explains.

The second prong of their attack was to improvise as an ensemble, rather than as individual pieces.

"A lot of times [in] bands with horns, it's like you're got the tune, and the horns are playing the chart. They're a layer," Chorney says. "Rather than that, we tried to approach the thing kind of like a big band that operated as a small quartet, with cross-conversation going on between all of the players, not just a section."

Chorney concedes that keeping those lines of communication open while composing for such a large ensemble was often unwieldy.

"But we really got good at it," says Chorney. "That was the central magic of the band."

"We weren't just trying to be a party band," says Maris. "There was more adventurous content than what you find in most similarly sized bands who were just trying to do the funk thing."

Steve Lencz was a critic for the *Burlington Free Press* during the band's heyday. He agrees viperfloss elevated their music beyond what most dance bands were doing at the time.

"You definitely had your moments to dance and grove," Lencz says. "But it was their versatility that made them different... They just had a different vibe. They were sometimes a bit darker, a bit heavier. But they could blast out the fun, happy jazz with the best of them."

Maris points out that the group explored suites of music by an unlikely assortment of composers, such as Nina Simone, Duke Ellington and Max Roach. "And we

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Acid Trip

stretched out a lot," he says. "We were sort of a jam band in that respect, but coming at it from a more percussive."

"ViperHouse could jam, but it always felt like there was a hesitance to do so for very long," adds Lescabe. "What made them better than others is that there was a push, a structure that seemed to keep them from meandering too far off the road and crash and burn."

"There was a lot of improvisation... and with us it could be a day, or a full-on group improvisation where the whole band was in on it," Morse says. "We called those 'acidoid collisions'."

ViperHouse put out their albums in five years. Given their reputation for incendiary live shows, perhaps it's not surprising that Chorney's favorite was a live record, *Ottawa*.

In 1997, the band played the Ottawa Jazz Festival. But two hours before getting on stage, they discovered their van had been broken into and burglarized. Festival organizers scrambled to find instruments for the band to play.

"It was a beautiful show, actually, very emotionally charged," recalls Chorney. During home, the band listened to cassettes of the show taped from the soundboard. "Because people still listened to cassettes then," he says. To their surprise, the tapes actually sounded pretty good.

"We got this idea to put out a limited-edition live album, 1000 CDs," says Chorney. "We were like, 'Let's do it within the next two weeks, put out the story that we got ripped off. Basically be serious, serious comedy. And it worked!'"

The band was able to recoup enough money to replace instruments. Chorney recently discovered a small stash of about 20 CDs in a closet; they'll be available at this week's show.

Eventually, all good things must come to an end. In 2000, Williams, Davidson, McIlach and Boyer left ViperHouse to pursue other projects.

"These were young people," says Chorney. "They were at a time of change in their lives."

ViperHouse continued touring as a reconfigured sextet, but the experiment was short-lived.

"It sounded good — wonderful, actually," Chorney says of the band's second incarnation. "But having a big band was becoming almost impossible to sustain. We had done a pretty good job of it, but it was getting hard. And there is a time to end everything."

And there's a time to come back. For Thursday's show, the band returns almost all of its original pieces, though Andrew Morse and Caleb Elder will fill in for McIlach and Quinn on trombone and violin, respectively. Bassist/pianist Zach Tennessee, a frequent collaborator with Chorney, will take the stage, as well.

Chorney says the band will draw on its entire repertoire for Thursday's show, though he notes the emphasis will be on later material.

"That's some of our better stuff," he says. "But we're even doing stuff from the first record." Chorney explains that the band's material has stood the test of time.

"It doesn't sound like it's from a certain time," he says. "It doesn't sound like '90s music, you know?"

"It's classic, timeless dance music," adds Williams.

Morse concurs. "Part of the reason we were unique is that the music felt timeless back then. And still feels like it is," he says. "It wasn't about the mid-'90s or late '90s — although we made some choices musically then that we might not now. It's a joy to bring it back."

That joy is amplified by the band members' individual musical growth in the time since.

"The 10-years-later experience factor is pretty amazing," says Chorney of his bandmates. "It's wild to hear them now."

So, is it possible ViperHouse will be even better a decade later?

"Better is a fuzzy term," says Chorney. "It will be different, that's for sure." ☺

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On a recent tour of Shelburne Farms, neither the bone-chilling weather nor an unprecedented flooding could dampen the grandeur of this Gilded Age country estate. The north season was fully submerged in Lake Champlain, the brown Swiss cows obscured by fog. But there, around one sweeping curve of the gravel road, was the supposedly grand Farm Barn and, around another, the handsome Shelburne House, the aptly appointed Inn at Shelburne Farms.

Extreme personal wealth landed this gem in Vermont. The 1600-acre estate was built in the 1840s as a summer retreat and experimental farm for a single couple, Edie Vanderbilt and William Brewster Webb. Arguably, though, it's the Webb's great-grandchildren who deserve "National Historic Landmark" status. In the 1970s they turned the place into an educational nonprofit, promoting environmental sustainability, land stewardship and conservation. Now everyone in the area thanks Shelburne Farms as theirs, from its disciples to its walking trails to its award-winning cheeses.

Familiar as the place may be, admirers have a couple of new reasons to revisit this National Historic Landmark District. The past few years have seen significant developments at Webb's 1891 Breeding Barn, the less frequently visited Southern Acres portion of the grounds and in the formal gardens at Shelburne House, once the pet center of Edie, as she's called around here.

Both are ongoing \$1 million-plus restoration projects that have reached new stages of completion. That gives Douglas Porter a lot of a headache. The 54-year-old historic preservationist, who is lead project manager on both sites, welcomes a chance to show off the progress on two massive efforts.

THE BREEDING BARN

Porter dotes his red Toyota pickup right through the Breeding Barn's elegant, semicircular entry arch into the center of its dirt-on-concrete floor. William Webb had the New York City architect Robert Henderson Robertson design the vast rectangular space to house a milking ring for showing off what Webb hoped would be a better draft-and-show-horse breed for New England farmers. Interested buyers would have sat opposite the arch in a second-floor grandstand and watched the horses being presented below.

But what's most striking is the view upward. The roof ceiling is so high



WHAT'S UNUSUAL TO ME IS THE LEVEL OF CARE THAT'S BEING TAKEN TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT ON THE HISTORIC CHARACTER.

DOUGLAS PORTER

PRESERVATION

Keeping It Real

Shelburne Farms showcases its new-and-improved original barn and gardens

BY AMY LILLY

that the sound of cooing doves echoes as if through a cathedral. Light filters through huge, multipaned dormer windows. Porter says Robertson who would five years later design the railcar building the world had yet seen (the 1899 Park Row Building in Manhattan) based the roof truss on French architect Gustave Eiffel's railway stations.

So the oft-quoted assertion that the Breeding Barn was "the largest unsupported interior space in the United States for 40 years after its construction," as glorified in the National Historic Landmark nomination report, is "a false claim," says Porter. "There were truss sheds from the 1850s more than twice as broad as this," he points out. It's not hard to see why the claim



Softer light in the barn. 2010

persists, though. The space does inspire superlatives.

Porter has a master's degree in historic preservation from the University of Vermont and teaches in its engineering school. He also leads restoration projects for the National Park Service, including Boulder National Monument in New Mexico and Tannockton Museum in Arizona. Those commitments require him to spend one week per month out West — which explains Porter's pointy aligator boots and unusual tie.

Shelburne Farms engaged Porter after two engineering firms separately determined that the barn's roof truss was structurally unsound. "It didn't check out," he says. "Some pieces were inadequate for snow loads" — yet the roof hadn't caved in 100 years. "I was tried to figure that out," Porter explains. Funding came from a 2004 planning grant from the Getty Foundation.

After four years of research that included everything from measuring the strain load of the truss by hanging 14,000-pound weights from its pulleys to using laser scanning to generate computer models, Porter determined that Robertson's structure had built up because, midway through the building process, he had added cross tie beams to the truss' iron support system. The barn, Porter came to believe, was incredibly well designed.

Porter and his crew of six frumens and six vaqueros spent a year doing stabilization work on the barn and addressing decay finished through a second Getty grant. A new copper roof had been installed by Burlington architect Martin Tierney in 1993, but it merely halted deterioration of the woodwork that had progressed over decades of neglect. Through testing, Porter's team detected water damage in 14 roof beams and several wood joists, some of it hidden in the beams' cores. Instead of replacing these pieces whole, the team cut out the rot, shaped and fitted replacement sections, and bolted them in the good parts of the wood.

It's remarkable to see Shelburne Farms going to such lengths to preserve the original barn, in Porter's view. "Not many owners would say 'Take four years and figure out what really needs to be done,'" he deduces. "What's unusual to me is the level of care that a living takes to minimize the impact on the historic character. The same process is going on at the gardens."

Shelburne Farms is often recognized for "its extensive agricultural practices" and "leading the way on food issues and techniques for small farms." Porter cautions, "but their commitment to

cultural conservation is not as well known."

Visitors can catch a tour of the Breeding Barn each Monday until the end of Shelburne Farms' 2011 season. They'll see the scaffold-free interior for the first time since the towering support structure—a work of art in itself, Porter notes—came down. Future rehab plans include restoring doors, windows and siding, and adding bathrooms and accessibility to outfit the barn as an event space.

THE FORMAL GARDENS

Wells's horse breeding hobby was short lived. With the emergence of steam power, he began selling off his 200 odd horses a decade after the barn was completed. By contrast, Lila worked on her formal gardens for 40 years.



PHOTO BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS

after her forthcoming book *Let, Guide to the Formal Gardens*, which is being published by Shelburne Farms.

The Vanderbilt heiress, Deeds explains, had a patterned garden until 1910. Then, inspired by a trip through Europe, she redesigned it to combine the structured look of Italianate gardens with the painterly sweeps of color then being popularized by English garden designer Gertrude Jekyll.

While other millionaires simply hired Jekyll to do their gardens, says Deeds, Lila "did it herself like I wanted it to be harmonious." As a result, the heiress never engaged a landscape architect, who would have left behind detailed plans, as Robertson did of the barn. Deeds—who has been mailing Lila's letters, diaries and photos of the estate for class since the mid-1990s—has located only a few rough sketches and some paint lists that were "just sort of scribbled together." As a Jekyll specialist who studied historical-garden restoration at Harvard University, Deeds is taking her res-



Work on the garden wall 2010

toration on the gardens' Jekyll-inspired period.

Outside, Porter helps Deeds jump past a temporary barrier fence to the lower terrace box-

during the job. The formal garden restoration began in 2007, visitors before then may remember seeing a chain of terraces that had tumbled into the lake, braving with it a section of curved balustrade. (Some of that damage can be seen in Eva Scholberg's 2009 "Track in Vermont" video as the garden's restoration.) The 18-foot wall and nearby all the brick retaining walls forming the upper terrace had been knocked over

"There was some inclination to treat this as a ruin. It was seen as too big a project," Porter recalls. Fortunately, an anonymous donor stepped up.

Since then, Porter and his crew have rebuilt the wall, an operation that involved trucking boulders across the frozen lake and dumping them into a trench during three bare-raming days ("They drove off a day before the ice broke," Porter says.) The team also rebuilt the curved overlook and brick terrace walls, and upgraded the multiple levels in between.

Conservator Angelyn Rose Rivers—Porter's collaborator in their consulting business Conservation Associates—led the restoration of 600 pieces of cast stone, including hundreds of individual balusters. Now under tarp nearby, these will soon be refinishing the overlook and lily pool wall. Future phases of the restoration, which is expected to last through 2015, will return the lily pool and its restored marble, box-faced fountain to working order, dig up a second, currently buried pool off the north end of the house, and rebuild its pergola with wood cut on the property.

Visitors to the site can see panoramic photos of the gardens from the 1900s, which hang in the hallway leading to the game room. In them, exotic potted box trees line the overlook, forming a stately frame for the Adirondack beyond. Will Deeds be restoring those?

"Oh, no,"

she declares. "That was when [Lila] had 50 gardens, and they would roll those pots into the greenhouse every fall. Now that's just no."

On a historical estate like Shelburne Farms, Deeds continues, there's enough to do as it is—"you just eat one fire after another," she suggests.

"The fires are stacked up all around," adds Porter with a laugh. "You just have to choose which one to put out next." ☐

■ The Shelburne Farms Breeding Barn tour runs Mondays to 3 p.m. through October 16. \$10 to 15 admission. Don't forget Shelburne area credits and members. Call 802-249-7339 for more.

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And that's just the trouble with "restoring," then, according to master gardener Janelle Deeds.

"For me, the difficult thing is that a garden is not like a painting. It's always evolving," says the 74-year-old, pointing her white hair behind her ears. "She was always changing it." During a reporter's visit, Deeds and Porter sit among several gilded chairs in the main house. Deeds holds a proof

Words to Chew On

Vermont writers meet the summer season with culinary and agricultural books

BY CORIN HIRSCH

Some people wait their summer reading till their scrambled eggs, light and fluffy. Others reach for narratives that are dense, chewy and thoughtful. Whichever your warm-weather pleasure, recent books by Vermont food writers offer something for nearly every taste, from a hefty comfy cookbook, to a short butting classic, to a stunning food-system exposé. *Seven Days* sampler the crop.

FOR THE CEREBRAL FOODIE

In 2008, Barry Estabrook wrote an article for *Gourmet* magazine titled "The Prince of Tomatoes," which uncovered the grisly roots of the almost-lost fruit we find on grocery produce shelves during the winter. Since all the biggest workers who harvest tomatoes in hot climates live in scorching, aridly arid and virtual slavery, he revealed. Estabrook has expanded the *James Beard Award*-winning piece into the dense but engaging *Tomatoland: How Modern Industrial Agriculture Destroyed Our Most Alluring Fruit*, a worldwide indictment of Florida's billion-dollar tomato industry. After you read it, buying a supermarket tomato may feel like a dirty act.

What Estabrook found in the hot and infernal Florida fields, from which 90 percent of our off-season tomatoes grow, was chemical-soaked stretches of human misery. The *Vermonter* writer says he initially set out to answer a basic question: Why are so many mass-market tomatoes devoid of flavor? While poking

around the raggy shores of the Sunshine State, Estabrook discovered that most tomatoes begin as rock-hard green orbs that are ripened by ethylene gasing — fruits "so plastic and so identical they could've been stamped out by a machine," he writes. As one grower told Estabrook, "I hate not lost one sale due to taste. People just want something red to put in their salad."

But first, Estabrook narrates the humble tomato's long, unlikely rise to culinary ubiquity, from its South American origins through selective breeding and industrial-scale production. He broods down an complex flavor profile and strategies the reasons that tomatoes come to be raised in the state of Florida. "Florida just happens to be warm enough," he writes. "For a tomato to survive the months before we consume to eat down."

Most shocking, however, are that those tomatoes, picked by immigrants who are sometimes held against their will in locked quarters and overcharged for rent, food and other services, and who sometimes work under threats and intimidation, Estabrook and a few who escaped, and in his book introduces us to a *flavorful* tomato that was once to be

the only such organism looking after pickers' well-being. The author clearly holds the growers he meets (with one exception) in low esteem. Estabrook's spare language is never preachy, and he serves a tale with as much flavor as the modern industrial tomato lacks.

While Estabrook explains words carefully, Ken Hewitt throws them around like loose change, phrases like "by gosh" and "I don't know about you." pepper his narrative.

Perhaps he adopted his energetic, first-person voice as a counterpoint to the density of his subject matter. *Meating Sapper Safe*, *One Man's Quest to Learn the Truth about Food Safety* is sometimes bleak and saturated with statistics, but Hewitt dillys us a colorful *Trump*-driving adventure as a springboard into his explanation of the deadly pathogens and virulent bacteria that lurk in our industrial-scale food systems.



He points out that food-poisoning cases have skyrocketed in the last three decades, and that federal agencies failed to stem consuming certain foods — such as raw milk — while simultaneously allowing agribusiness behemoths to essentially police themselves.

Hewitt chronicled *Estabrook*, who experienced one in his 2000 book *The Zone That Food Saved*. In *Meating Sapper Safe*, he interviews individuals such as a raw-milk proponent and an epidemiologist who blames the entire off-schedule livestock industry for the increase in food-borne bacteria. Pathogen outbreaks, Hewitt suggests, are a "symptom of the tremendous distance that has come between our food and us." He may be preaching to the choir in Vermont, but Hewitt's assertions are likely to turn heads elsewhere, if his book can find an audience.

John R. Carroll tells a *Vermonter* — he's a professor of natural resources at the University of New Hampshire — but the state is featured in his new book in a chapter called "Barrenness, Vermont: Capital of the Lacinosaes."

That book, *The Real Deal: Toward Food Efficiency and Farm Sustainability in New England*, could also be called *The Lacinosaes Exposed: How the Glories*. Despite its self-published look (it was actually published by UNH), Carroll's claims are stirring and important. New England's metropolitan miles from food self-sufficiency, he says, and its drive to lock into high prices to change that.

New England is "the least food secure area in the country, and thus the most vulnerable," writes Carroll. Ninety percent of our food arrives by truck, he points out, which renders the region highly dependent on diesel fuel and subject to its rising costs. The era of cheap oil is over, and, accordingly, access to relatively inexpensive food will suffer, he adds.

But all is not lost if we keep our locavore hand rolling. Carroll cites the Victory Gardens of World War II as a model for 21st-century home gardens.

More food after the classified section **PAGE 43**

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ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED

GERIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP held weekly at The Arkon at Shelburne. For info or to register, contact Kirk at 855-565-8650.

WOMEN'S RAPE CRISIS CENTER

will be starting a free confidential 16-week support group for adult female survivors of sexual violence. Please call 866-6555 ext. 20 for information.

LIVING SINGLE SUPPORT GROUP

This consists of a follow up to the Overeater Recovery course that is offered at House of Hope Church. If you're here through the Overeater Care Clinic, you have an opportunity to continue to grow! Info, website and next steps: Call Sam Fennell for more information at 855-734-0555.

SUPPORT SURVIVORS SUPPORT GROUP

For those who have lost a friend or loved one through suicide. Location: Maple Leaf Clinic, 167 North Main Street, Wallingford. 855-445-3077. 6:30-8:00 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month.

GLAYF

Gay and Les. Multi-episode and foster families. GLAYF provides support, education, resources and workshops to help maintain and strengthen gay and lesbian foster and adoptive families in southeastern VT. Open to all GLAYF foster and adoptive parents and their children. Peer childcare provided. The group meets on the 1st Thursday of each month. Call Mike at 855-6865 to get more information and to register.

ALANIN

Family group 18 steps. Thursdays 12:20-1:20 p.m. Call Alanine at 855-442-8483 for information and to register. Free of charge. 68 High Street, Hartford.

LARK CHAMPLAIN MEN'S RESOURCES CENTER MEN'S GROUP

AL SUPPORT GROUP All men will come weekly group: workshops, open discussion forum. Varied topics include: sex, relationships, work, parenting, personal growth. Meeting: Confidential management of Open to all interested, religious and social conditions. Joseph's House, 333 Glenwood Ave., Ewing. Thursday 7-9 p.m. Please call 855-445-4850.

LEY SUPPORT GROUP

This is a facilitated HIV/AIDS support group that aims to foster a greater sense of community, self-acceptance and personal growth. We're a group of survivors and allies of our experience will help you understand and enjoy what positive living has to offer. Friday 7-9 p.m. In the white building behind the Unitarian Universalist Church. For more info call Alan at 855-6054.

INTERNAL VALVE INCLINATOR/DYSARTHROLOGIA

Group therapy for individuals sharing purposes. Please call 855-3733.

TOPS

(Take 50 Pounds Seriously) Chapter Meeting: Gethsemane Church, 118 Main Street, Montpelier. Wednesdays 5-15 8-10 p.m. For info call Linda at 435-8345.

RECOVERED PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Every first Monday of the month at 6-30 p.m. in Rooming. Falls, 10 Market Place. Main St. Parents grandparents and adult siblings are welcomed. The hope is to begin a compassionate Friends Chapter in the area. Info please call Phyllis at 855-7344.

EATING DISORDERS PARENTAL SUPPORT GROUP

for parents of children with or at risk of anorexia or bulimia. Meetings 7-9 p.m. third Wednesday of each month at the Covenant Community Church, 18, 15 Boon Center. We focus on being a resource and providing referrals to parents for old and new. 10 parents. More information call Peter at 855-856-2354.

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

and Geriatric support group. Held the last Tuesday of every month from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Glenwood Terrace. Burlington. Info contact Kim 855-6784.

Be here **now.**

Sign up for **NOTES ON THE WEEKEND**, our email newsletter, for an update that directs you to great **shows, restaurants, staff picks and discounts** for the weekend. We'll also keep you posted on **SEVEN DAYS** events and contests.

SEVEN DAYS
NOTES ON THE WEEKEND



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DIRECTOR OF NURSING SERVICES

New full bed skilled nursing home with a 20 bed "rapid response" unit is looking for a Director of Nursing. Franklin County Retirement Center, a two-time winner of the Vermont Quality of Life Award, is searching for a DNO with five years of Skilled Nursing experience at retirement. Experience in a skilled unit or with the elderly is a plus!

FRC is a family-owned and operated facility where our caregivers have a say in the day to day care of the residents. If you would like to know more and become part of our team, please visit our website at www.franklincountyretirement.com, or call us at (802) 752-1680.



Coordinator

The Community Justice Network of Vermont (CJNV) is seeking an organized and efficient staff person to fill a newly established Coordinator position. As the Network's Coordinator, you will be working with a statewide organization that is dedicated to the growth of restorative services across Vermont. In addition to providing direct support to the network and committees, you will also take a leadership role in the organizing and implementation of Network-sponsored events.

This position a part time with a competitive salary for a full job description, visit www.cjnv.org/jobs. To apply, send a cover letter, resume, and three references by Friday, June 16, to:

Jane H. Gilbert, Director
Winsook Community Justice Center
27 Allen St., Winooski, VT 05444
or email to jhgibbert@winsookjustice.com.



Still trying to figure out what to do with your life?

CVAA is recruiting academics for paid positions in the Neighbor to Neighbor AmeriCorps program.

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To learn more, call CVAA at 1-800-642-5119 or visit n2n.americorps.org.



is a private, nonprofit United Way organization with a mission of helping people age with independence and dignity.

COMMUNITY INCLUSION FACILITATORS

Champlain Community Services is seeking dynamic and dedicated individuals to support adults with developmental disabilities in a one-on-one setting to help them achieve their goals both socially and vocationally. Enjoy each weekday while making a difference in your community and as someone's life. We are currently having several fully benefited positions.

If you are interested in joining our diverse team, please submit a letter of interest and resume to Karen Carabonessa, kcc@ccs-vt.org.

Champlain Community Services

512 Troy Ave
Colchester VT 05446
(802) 635-0511
www.ccs-vt.org
EEOE



Champlain Community Services

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Member Since 2006



Four Seasons, a well established nonprofit early education center, is looking for a qualified Executive Director. The position is permanent, full time, and reports to a board of directors. The center serves up to about 40 children, infants through five year olds, year round and emphasizes nature and play based learning. The Director will supervise a staff of about 15, and have overall responsibility for implementing curriculum and programming, regulatory compliance (e.g. STARR, finance and development) and all other supervisory aspects of maintaining the center. Qualified candidates will preferably have a master's degree, a early ed or related educational experience, familiarity with nonprofits and community based, a track record working creatively and positively with young children, a successful grant writing/development history, a strong ability to manage small business finances, an ability to maintain positive and professional interpersonal skills in a close knit environment, a general positive attitude, sense of humor and a highly motivated personality.



Executive Director

Four Seasons of Early Learning
Greenboro Road, VT

Please email a cover letter and resume to info@4seasonsofearlylearning.org.

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Send resumes to
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PRACTICE
WORKER**

MORRISVILLE, VT

FULL TIME

Our full time staff is an immediate opening for a full time Family-Centered Practice Worker with a primary focus on Family-style coaching for our office in Morrisville, VT.

Family-Centered Practice work is a general coaching practice providing parenting support and education to Families seeking with OEF. You will give organizational Family-style Coaching, Family-Group Coaching, and Family-Style Planning. Coaches monitor children's learning and group involvement, teaching, as well as family clinical and administrative support in working towards certification.

Responsibilities include a degree in human services or related field, experience working with high-risk children and families, knowledge of child development and child abuse policy, and a passion for family-style coaching. Graduate, volunteer, and other relevant experience is a plus.

Interested candidates please email your resume to mkortner@eastcoastvt.org or fax 863-263-0111. www.eastcoastvt.org

LGBTQ Community Center Director

Executive Director

RULZ Community Center in Windsor, VT, is seeking a committed dynamic individual to lead the center's largest 501(c)(3) organization. The Executive Director will work to lead the Center's mission to educate, educate and educate with respect for lesbian, gay, bi-sex and transgender communities.

The ED is responsible for the overall leadership of the center, supervision of the staff, fund raising, and financial management. The ED serves as the public face of the organization and represents the Center in local, statewide and national LGBTQ events.

The position requires professional experience in providing program administration, developing and implementing policies and procedures, supervising staff, and advocacy/public policy. Strong knowledge of the political and social Vermont landscape is highly preferred.

For further information, please visit our website: www.RULZ.org.

To submit an application, please send cover letter and resume to RULZ@sevendaysvt.com.

RULZ is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Application deadline: **06/27/2013**

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Contact Krista at krista@leapsandbounds.com



**NORWICH
UNIVERSITY**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI EVENTS

Events are an essential component of Norwich University's communication, development and donor relations efforts. The Assistant Director of Alumni Events is responsible for planning, coordinating, implementing and evaluating the on-campus events that reach the University's estimated 26,000 alumni.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CLASS RELATIONS

Serve as the liaison for all class agents and alumni volunteers from the sixth summer class through the 20th reunion class, including developing the goals and strategy for each reunion and reunion giving, each year.

ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR

Colleges prospective students for the School of Graduate and Continuing Studies Degree Completion programs, recruit at college fairs and business functions, conduct meetings on the college application process, interview and counsel prospective students, and manage and evaluate admissions applications. Also responsible for data integrity data entry data validation and applicant communication plans to ensure a timely and effective admissions process.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ALUMNI & FAMILY RELATIONS

Be responsible for a range of activities that support the operations of the Alumni Office and enhance the University's relationships with approximately 26,000 alumni, students, parents, friends, donors and volunteers. This position will report directly to the Office Manager and support the work of the Assistant Directors of Campus Events, Alumni Communications, Alumni Clubs & Regional Events, and the Stewardship Officer.

Please visit our website, www.norwich.edu/jobs, for further information and how to apply for these and other great jobs.

Norwich University is an Equal Opportunity Employer offering a comprehensive benefit package that includes medical, dental, group life and long term disability insurance, flexible spending accounts for health and dependent care, retirement savings plan and tuition scholarships for eligible employees and their family members.



One-Year Master's Degree in Special Education

Now licensed teachers can earn their M.Ed. in special education endorsement during an intensive one year program and internship/practicum transfer credit within two years. The class starts Fall 2011. Limit 15 students. Application deadline: July 1.



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or Penny.larocca@jsc.edu

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It is considered, for the most part, as a day-overnight position. Any necessary training will be provided by the VNA. TB Screening required of all day plus bedtimes with proven bedtimes provided.

Excellent reference required. Background check and driving record check will be completed by the VNA.

Contact: Carole McCarry VNA of Chantrelle and Grand Isle Counties 802-868-4474, or mccar@vna.org.

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Goodlad College seeks an experienced human resources professional to work collaboratively with College leadership and direct the Goodlad College human resources services. The ideal candidate will have enthusiasm and desire for working in a dynamic, nontraditional, values-driven organization, and bring both clarity and practicality to administrative decision making. Responsibilities include managing personnel systems and employee relations in compliance with College policies and goals, ensuring compliance with regulatory agencies, ensuring the College's recruitment, hiring, compensation, and classification systems and operations, scheduling, recordkeeping, and maintaining communications regarding the employee benefit package and related compliance issues and trends, working with legal counsel, the President and other key College administrators in a collective bargaining matter, developing and managing the human resources budget and providing key information to the organization budget process, promoting safety, wellness and a socially just environment in the workplace.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's degree in administration or human resources or a related field with a master's degree desirable, plus five to seven years experience in administration or personnel, or a combination of education and experience from which comparable knowledge and skills are acquired. The successful candidate will have knowledge of employee benefits and compensation administration, employment laws, practices and systems, as well as employee relations and collective bargaining training and experience.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

Goodlad College seeks an Executive Assistant to the President to oversee administrative and management activities within the President's office. This position will serve as the President's liaison with college and external constituency members, represent the President at events, meetings and conferences, facilitate meetings and events, advise the President and College leadership teams, and prepare and oversee budgets for the President's office and the Board of Trustees. In addition, this position will work closely with the President and Administration office to support college efforts in identifying, cultivating and soliciting gifts.

A bachelor's degree and previous experience serving in a highly skilled capacity as an executive of a nonprofit or similar organization are required. The ideal candidate will have a master's degree and experience in higher education, development and fundraising. Successful applicants must possess excellent organizational and communication skills, including the ability to communicate effectively with a broad range of individuals and groups both within and outside the College community. The Executive Assistant must be highly motivated, be able to work in a fast-paced environment, work well in teams and autonomously, possess demonstrated success in managing multiple projects with competing priorities, and have the ability to handle confidential, sensitive information and situations with diplomacy and discretion. This position requires travel and evening and weekend work. This position is full time and is eligible for our power-on benefits package.

These full-time positions are eligible for our generous benefits package.

For both positions, applications received on or before June 17 will be given priority consideration. Positions are open until filled. To view application instructions, please visit www.goodlad.edu/employment_opportunities.

Goodlad College is committed to creating a college representative of a diverse global community and capable of creating change. To that end, we are actively seeking applications from qualified candidates from groups currently underrepresented on our institution for this position.



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Executive Director Dioxon of Vermont, Inc. (DOV)



The Executive Director is the Chief Executive Officer of Dioxon of Vermont, Inc. a private nonprofit organization that provides transitional housing and support services for homeless persons moving back to community. The Executive Director reports to the DOV Executive Committee of the Board of Directors and is responsible for the organization's consistent achievement of its mission and financial objectives. Responsibilities include but are not limited to the ongoing supervision of house director support to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, fundraising, maintenance of institutional relations and program expansion.

The ideal candidate will have excellent oral and written communication skills, demonstrated commitment to leading and developing a nonprofit organization, knowledge of the principles and practices of financial management and budgeting, ability to lead, supervise team members and motivate staff in an effective and collegial manner, capacity to forge positive and effective relationships with leaders of public and private agencies and persons in the general public, ability to analyze and use program data to draw conclusions and to make appropriate recommendations for program development and revision, organize travel skills that include the ability to arrange clear and accurate records and experience meeting reports and leading boards and other constituents. Candidates should have at least five years of full-time or equivalent part-time supervisory or managerial experience in public or private administration. Salary commensurate with similar opportunities. Dioxon of Vermont, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

To apply send a letter of interest with resume before June 17, 2011 to search@dioxonofvt.com. Please note we will not be accepted. Information about Dioxon of Vermont is available at www.dioxonofvt.com.

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Hunger Free Vermont seeks a full time development associate to assist in the development, implementation, and execution of the organization's annual fundraising and marketing plan including corporate/foundation grant writing, special events, program research, media outreach, and coordination of the annual Hunger Free Vermont. Special projects may also be assigned by program staff to provide design support on print materials and web content.

Position requires excellent verbal and written communication skills, proficiency in all Microsoft applications, and working knowledge of database management. Greater design and website knowledge experience a plus. Good clearance and ability to coordinate phone and handle confidential sensitive information. Bachelor's degree, one to three years experience required, and ability to work some evenings and weekends. Cover letter and resume accepted through June 15.

Please send application to:
Advances@hungerfreevt.org

Alida Duncan
Hunger Free Vermont
38 Creighton Dr., Suite 100
St. Burlington, VT 05402.

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VPiRG, Vermont's largest environmental and consumer advocacy group, is looking for a tech savvy data manager who wants to apply skills and strategic sense to manage the member and advise information that powers its public interest campaigns.

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Must have three to five years relevant professional experience that demonstrates aptitude for database/information architecture, complex query building and analytics. Experience with DataPerfect, Salsa, ArcGIS and/or Drupal (or similar platforms) a plus.

Competitive salary, employer paid health, dental and disability insurance, employer matching IRA, six weeks annual leave. Submit cover letter and resume via email only to info@vpvprg.org. EOE. No phone calls.

Full job description available at: www.vpvprg.org

Excellent Employment Opportunities

Current Openings at The Lodge at Otter Creek

We are looking for an **Activities Coordinator** to enhance the lives of the elders in our Level III Residential Care community through physical, cognitive, emotional and spiritual activity. The ideal candidate will have a Bachelor's in Therapeutic Theory with a senior Director Care position I & II. We will sponsor AD 14 & II care function and consider an alternative combination of relative education and experience for the right individual. Must be friendly and energetic with a passion for healthy aging. Basic computer skills including Microsoft Office (Preferred preferred) and digital photography skills required, as well as a solid driver's license and a clean driving record. Hours are full time flexible including odd weekend. \$16 hour plus insurance and pension time. Life optional benefits & dental. Please send resumes to JimMcWilliams@prevetcare@lodgeatottercreek.com

Seeking friendly, compassionate and reliable individuals for our renowned Enhanced Services Program (ESP). Duties include assisting elders with every day tasks: light housekeeping, meal preparation, companionship, errands and personal care. These are positions with flexible scheduling. Excellent references and background check required. Please send resumes to Rose Cleveland at rosecleveland@lodgeatottercreek.com and put ESP in the subject.

Seeking full-time RN Long-term care experience needed and positive approach to working with and managing others. Please send resumes to Rose Cleveland at rosecleveland@lodgeatottercreek.com and put RN in the subject.



The Lodge at Otter Creek, 152 Lodge Road, Middlebury, VT 05753
www.lodgeatottercreek.com



FAMILY SHELTER On-Call, Per Diem Staff

In order to provide staffing for our family shelters 24/7, COTS relies on a pool of on-call per diem staff. These individuals have the flexibility and availability to fill in last minute as needed at our family shelters. On-Call Per Diem Staff members' primary responsibilities are to ensure the safety and well being of persons and property in the Family Shelters, to support shelter residents in their search for permanent housing, to sign in and orient residents to shelter life, and to enforce the applicable rules and policies.

On-call Per Diem Staff must be available for a minimum of 1 week of coverage per month. When on-call, the Per Diem staff will be available weekdays from 5 pm through 8 am and on weekends Friday 5 pm through Monday 8 am.

Qualified candidates must have a high school diploma or GED, as well as three years relevant experience, or a combination of education and experience from which needed skills have been acquired, and a commitment to the COTS mission.

Send cover letter and resume to:
**Human Resources
COTS**

PO Box 1616, Burlington, VT 05402-1616

Email: jobs@sevendaysvt.com
OR: 771 ext 1 800 345 3523



TWINCRAFT SOAP INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE MECHANICS

Twincraft Soap is looking for full-time Industrial Maintenance Mechanics. Ideal experienced candidate will be able to multitask in a dynamic, fast paced environment with a willingness to learn new equipment and suggest industrial improvements. Twincraft Soap offers a competitive salary and benefits package.

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This is a large term temporary position to work 20 hours/week through August 17, 2012. Primarily responsible for processing and balancing payments received and other related billing functions. Must have excellent accounting experience with quick balancing and advanced PC skills including Excel. Must be able to work a flexible schedule while necessary to meet business needs.

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Director of Administration & Communications

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Vermont seeks a highly organized, detail-oriented individual for the full-time position, whose report directly to the CEO. The successful candidate will provide administrative office functions including general office duties, correspondence, report preparation and management of our shared services program. Additional responsibilities include managing all digital related print and digital communications and ensuring the CEO web page content and public relations. The candidate will provide leadership in staff in the absence of the CEO and will be involved with special events, fundraising campaigns and volunteer recruitment.

The ideal candidate will have a bachelor's degree and three to five years experience in management, public relations or special event planning, and possess strong interpersonal and computer skills. He/she will be a self-motivated person with a strong oral and written communication skills and an ability to work on a mission-oriented environment. The hiring range is between \$35,000 and \$48,000. For a more detailed job description, please visit www.vermontawish.org.

Interested applicants should send a cover letter, resume and three references by June 13 to:

jobs@vermontawish.org
The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Vermont
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South Burlington, VT 05483

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Interested candidates should possess a Bachelor's degree and relevant industry certifications, along with at least five years of experience. Strong interpersonal skills and a proven ability to support end users are essential.

For your immediate consideration, please send resume to: openings@addhospice.org or directly to AC#881, P.O. Box 754, Middlebury, VT 05751. (802) 487-7999. Visit us at www.addhospice.org.



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For further information on these positions and others currently available, or to apply online, please visit our website at: www.uvmjobs.com. **Job Reflow #001-056-2146** telephone #602-656-3319. Applicants must apply for positions electronically. Paper resumes are not accepted. Job positions are updated daily.

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Burlington College, a private liberal arts college on Lake Champlain, seeks a professional to join our Film and Cinema Studies department. This position will help manage the demands of a growing department with a quickly expanding equipment inventory. Our ideal candidate must be a tech savvy problem solver with exceptional communication and interpersonal skills. For a full job description please visit www.burlington.edu

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Burlington College, a private liberal arts college on Lake Champlain, seeks a professional to join our Financial Aid team. This position will work in various capacities of financial aid administration, including direct contact with students and parents, assisting with electronic data transmission with the Department of Education, and regular reporting and account reconciliation. Our ideal candidate will be able to work independently, communicate effectively, possess proven honesty with numbers, be detail-oriented, and be experienced in Microsoft Word and Excel. For a full job description, please visit www.burlington.edu

Applications for both positions due by Friday June 17 2011. To apply, send cover letter and resume via email to hr@burlington.edu, or to Human Resources, Burlington College, 351 North Ave., Burlington, VT 05401.

No phone calls, please



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Special Educator

Westford Elementary School

Our Westford Elementary School (grades PK-5) is seeking a skilled professional to coordinate and implement effective interventions for special education, SDA and ESY. This full-time position shall involve consultation to guide level teams and evaluating and developing intervention programs with a focus on literacy, math and behavior. Qualified candidates must possess the following:

- Valid VT Educator license with a Special Educator (E-43) or Consulting Teacher (E-49) endorsement
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively and collaboratively as part of a vertical teaching team, and as a team of learning specialists
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For additional information or to apply please go to www.schoolspring.com and enter job ID 48669. Applications only accepted electronically through www.schoolspring.com. DOE

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE



Cabot Greenery, makers of the world's finest cheddar cheese has an immediate opening in its Sales Support Department in Montpelier, VT. The Customer Service representative is responsible for processing orders, coordinating logistical changes, entering pricing, and assisting our customers and sales teams with questions or concerns. Strong oral and written communication skills and being a team player are essential.

The successful applicant must be able to work in a fast-paced, high-energy environment, have the ability to multitask, problem solve and prioritize under tight time constraints, and provide exceptional support to our customers, brokers, and sales team. Attention to detail and complete follow through is important. Knowledge of Excel, AS400, email, and other tools as needed. Applicants must have a four-year college degree.

Cabot offers an excellent benefit package and a competitive starting wage. Please apply in person or send resume to:

Human Resources Department, Cabot Greenery
One Hesse Farm Way, Montpelier, VT 05602
Phone: (802) 563-3882
Fax: (802) 963-2173
Email: jobs@cabotcheese.com
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CITY OF WINOOSKI

Assistant Fire Marshal/ Deputy Health Officer

The Deputy Health Officer/Assistant Fire

Marshal position exists to perform inspections related to health and building safety issues in the City of Winooski. The incumbent will provide expertise needed to advise property owners and tenants of the requirements of the National and Vermont codes and City ordinances. S/he will work with citizens, property owners, and state officials to bring housing and commercial buildings up to code and ensure compliance. The incumbent is responsible for ensuring that all required records are maintained in required detail and available as needed by other agencies. This position has the authority to effectively recommend the issuance of code violations and ensure fines and penalties.

Salary range is \$18.44 to \$21.00/hour. Benefits include full medical/dental and Vermont Municipal Retirement System (membership at age 55).

Please submit cover letter and resume to: Cheryl Daniel, **Borgeson** at 27 West Allen Street, Winooski, VT 05894 by June 15, 2011.

Homeownership Outreach Coordinator

Vermont Housing Finance Agency, located in Burlington, VT, has an immediate opening for an Outreach Coordinator. This is a great opportunity to work with the Agency's housing partners around the state to provide affordable housing to low- and moderate-income Vermonters. Primary responsibilities include promoting VHFHA's Homeownership (HO) Programs in Vermont through training and marketing with mortgage lenders, real estate professionals, home building organizations, housing nonprofits and consumers. Also participates in new HO program development and/or changes to existing programs, as well as support the agency's loan and underwriting processes.

Assistant's degree or equivalent work experience, and a minimum of three years experience in mortgage lending and/or real estate sales is required, with experience in affordable housing advocacy desired. Experience in public speaking and the design and preparation of training materials and presentations. Travel throughout Vermont on a regular basis, a valid VT driver's license, and dependable transportation are required. Highly developed computer skills including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint are required.

Demonstrated customer service skills along with excellent written and verbal communications skills are required. Must be highly organized, able to handle multiple tasks, set priorities, meet deadlines and work with a wide range of individuals, internal and external to the agency.

VHFHA offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefits package. Please send cover letter, resume and references by June 17 to: Martha Fridley, mfridley@vhfa.org



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The University of Vermont

Coordinator of Academic Services Montpelier Center



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for busy mail order company specializing in metaphysical minerals and jewelry. Duties include taking phone orders, data entry in Quickbooks, picking from large, complex inventory, preparing items to ship, receiving and stocking inventory and packing for trade shows. You must be detail oriented and organized, have excellent customer service skills and be able to work in a fast-paced environment. Familiarity with the energies of stones helpful.

Send a letter showing how you fit our requirements with a resume and references to Heaven & Earth, PO Box 240, East Montpelier, VT 05651.
NO phone calls, please



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25-YEAR-OLD MAN is looking for individual or couple to share a wheelchair-accessible home or apartment in surrounding area of St. Burlington. Gracious host of *Philly's* the *Caribbean Remy Rhyth* shows and classical organ music. Willing to train the right person(s). Required medical/personal care and supervisory communication. Supervise experienced team and communication provided. Maria Hamilton 444-6371

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Help Vermonters pursue their education goals! Senior Human Resources Analyst JOB CODE: SEV306

VSAC seeks a Human Resources professional to coordinate corporate recruitment efforts, assure legal compliance in the areas of benefits and employment, and support the wellness program. Will evaluate resumes, conduct phone screening, interview job descriptions and work with department managers to recruit and hire.

Responsible for ensuring legal compliance in areas of benefits by conducting annual HR audits, conducting benefits and compensation surveys and working with employee leaves including FMLA, Workers' Compensation, and disability.

Plus and coordinate a variety of wellness offerings and educational materials to encourage employees to adopt and maintain healthy behaviors and choices.

Must be knowledgeable about federal and state laws governing employment and benefits. Must be self-directed, organized, and detail-oriented with strong problem-solving and decision-making skills. Looking for a flexible, team-oriented person with strong written and oral communication skills. Must have strong interpersonal skills with a proven ability to work effectively with all levels of management.

Successful candidate will have a bachelor's degree and 3-5 years Human Resources or related field experience.

VSAC offers a dynamic work environment and competitive compensation. To learn more about these and other opportunities, visit our website at www.vtac.org. To be considered for any of our positions, please submit a resume and cover letter with Job Code SEV306 by June 7, 2011 to: **Director of Human Resources** via email jobs@vtvac.org, fax 804-3771, or mail: EOE

VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION

PO Box 2000,
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EOE

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We are seeking a Contract Analyst to develop, negotiate, and monitor provider contracts for BlueCross BlueShield of VT. The successful candidate will combine strong interpersonal and communication skills, a background in financial analysis, and excellent writing skills. The Contract Analyst will administer contracts to include the development of contract proposals and language as well as negotiate contract terms. The position requires strong administrative, financial analysis, and organizational skills, including the ability to function in a team environment, plan, and manage long-term projects. To-qualify provider reimbursement or financial experience preferred. Qualified candidates will have a degree in business, health care or related field, and three to five years experience in health care administration or insurance.

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IT Support Specialist

**Dunkiel •
Saunders**
Kearney | Springfield | VT 05156

Dunkiel Burlington Inc. is seeking a part-time IT Support Specialist (30 hours per week).

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Interested persons please send letter and resume to kconkle@nashua.com



Leadership Opportunities in Community Mental Health

Emergency Coordinator/Hospital Diversionist:

This is a full-time position averaging a 24-hour, on-call emergency service system and team, including providing intensive coverage in residential and crisis situations as well as providing leadership, supervision and development of emergency service staff. The position involves collaboration with area hospitals to reduce emergency room visits for substance and mental health primary issues, and admission and length of stay for psychiatric hospitalizations.

Care Coordinator:

This is a full-time position in our Access Program that serves as a single point of contact in helping clients gain access to needed medical, social, educational and other services. This position will be developing community relationships with community providers, and will assist in coordinating services, while also ensuring reports for care and providing assessments and short-term planning for care referrals. The position will work closely with all agency programs and will provide leadership, supervision and development of Access program staff.

Both positions require a master's degree in the counseling or social work field – licensure is preferred. Experience with emergency services, care coordination and a wide variety of individuals including those with mental illness, severely emotionally disturbed children and/or substance abuse problems preferred.

We offer a competitive salary and an excellent, flexible benefits package. Benefits grow with years of service and include an option to convert benefits dollars to additional salary if desired. Individuals who are interested in joining a strengths-based, flexible and dynamic organization are encouraged to apply. Your resume can be a complete listing of all our employment opportunities.

To apply, please send your resume and a letter of interest to: Melissa Turner, HR Coordinator, Glen Martin Center, 600 Box G, Randolph, VT 05686, or to mturner@clmcenter.org.

01.21.12



PART-TIME FACULTY

Johnson State College announces the following anticipated openings for the Fall 2013 Semester:

SPECIAL EDUCATION EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

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Or mail to: Human Resources Office Johnson State College 837 College Hill Johnson, VT 05656-8888. Learn more about Johnson State College by visiting our website at www.jsc.edu.

JSC strongly encourages applications from members of ethnic minority groups and underserved populations. JSC is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a member of the National State College system. In compliance with ADA requirements, we make reasonable accommodations for the known disability of otherwise qualified applicants.

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SIDEdishes

BY COEN HIRSCH & ALICE LEVITT

Eastern Standard

A PAIR OF NOVELTY MARKETS DOLLYS IN WINOCONA

NOVELTY ASIAN MARKET can be hard to find, despite its central location at 235 Main Street in Winona. The food storefront in its black, which faces away from the street, is easy to miss if one doesn't notice its sign featuring praying hands.

goal is to provide "food people eat every day, not things that are going to be sitting on the shelf for months or years."

The store can be said of **GOODLACE ASIAN MARKET**, at 32 Malletts Bay Avenue — the former home of a **WASH OF SUMMER**, now in Colchester. **SARAFIA LAPADULA**, who runs the store with her husband, **SAUL KERNAN**, also both from



That would be a mistake. The store, which opened on June 1, is still in the process of getting a full stock, but even now its aisles encompass an uncommon variety of treats. Owner **KEVIN KORNBLUM**, a native of Nepal, sells dry goods from her homeland, but the income-filled market also showcases tastes from far beyond the mountains of Nepal.

The counter is stocked with fresh duck eggs, along with homemade rice soup mix, and Filipino-style sisig-pao chicken bone.

Romero mixes and a wide variety of noodles fill the back of the store, while snacks such as Japanese Yuzu Yuzu candy and Calico chips are in front. Garing, who splits her time between Namora and working at a senior residence, was unavailable for an interview, but an employee said her

Nepali. Their store focuses on tastes of the Himalayas, with prepared pizzas, stir-fries, eggplants and chiles in the refrigerators, while bins the shelves are gran, fruit, exotic spices and powder to make the dessert graham josses.

Sepkots says that demand from the Nepalese community encouraged her and Adhikari to open the store, but the rest of the neighborhood has urged them to expand their offerings. "We're going to do all over," she says. "We're going to have every people from Asia, and we like to have American people, too."

With little overlap between the two stores, both owners hope to find a strong clientele among managers and following Americans alike.

Little River Band

FRESH TO TABLE COMES TO THE STONE INN

River House at the Stone Inn (323 Mountain Road, Stone) opens on Friday, June 30. For executive chef Doug Greenfield, it's the reward for the 130-hour weeks he says he's been working since he joined the inn less than three weeks ago.

In that time, Greenfield, interviewed more than 100 cooks for his team, choosing five to be part of his "collective of culinary minds," as he puts it, "inspiring traditional American fare using classical French techniques." It's particularly proud of New England Culinary Institute grad Agnes Tharion, formerly of Solstice at Stone Mountain Lodge, who is both his sous-chef and pastry chef, making all breads, buns and desserts from scratch.

The inn's previous restaurant, Stone Inn and Tavern, closed two months ago to make room for the new concept. Bakers, but, chocolate martini truffled food as a mission to let the history and its unique ambience live.

Greenfield, who's fresh from a "tour of Burlington waterfront hotels" following years cooking at Michelin-starred Miami restaurants, says his goal is to prepare "simple and honest good food, executed perfectly with not a lot of frills."

The opening menu includes \$5 "basters" such as house-cut fries with hand-grated oak and fresh herb potatoes. Among the small plates: grilled cauliflower with crispy fingerling potatoes, **GRUYERE VILAGE** cheddar, fruit sage, and **VENISON CHASSE AU COEUR** bacon. The large-plate menu features housemade spaghetti with heirloom tomatoes and herb-crusted chicken from **ROSEY KNOLL FARM** with apple butter and cheddar polenta.

Lake the fish of the day, the vegetables remain, unspecified as the print menu. They'll change daily to showcase the best fresh produce. Greenfield says he's kept the entire menu small to allow for a number of daily specials.

Chefs at the restaurant's Friday night grand opening will be treated to 12 select wines and drafts and free soft drinks and tastings. They can mingle to live music, which will become a regular Saturday night occurrence.

— A. L.

Double Feature

TWO CHITTENDEN-COUNTY MOVIE THEATERS OPEN RESTAURANTS

Popcorn with heart-healthy fika butter has its place, but in the last two weeks, two local movie theaters have gone above and beyond with their dining options. **EMERSON CINEMA** led the charge with the May 29 debut of **EMERSON & ON**.

— A. L.

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food

Words to Chew On

"Sustainability is no less a call to patriotism today" he writes. He also holds up the agricultural ceremonies that have sprung up in Massachusetts as regional models. And Carroll is downright serious with Burlington, calling the city's Food Council "a path-breaking entity." He celebrates the Tasteade, the Burlington Farmers Market, the University of Vermont and the spirit of a city where urban produce "promotes, in contrast to concrete, sustainability."

The endorsement of Carroll's call, though, is the agricultural potential of New England's food great universities — he profiles each in detail, citing strengths and deficiencies. For readers interested in where agriculture is heading — and who have a high tolerance for tiny type, bulleted factsoids, and terms such as "demand construction" and "capacity building" — Carroll's unfussy academic tone is vital.

FOR THE HUNGRY FOODIE, OR HOPHEAD

Sometimes you want to turn off your brain and not think about pork art, pathogens, labor abuses and dewatering food stores. Sometimes, you just want to eat candy or at least read about it.

When Carole Bullock-Prada scribbled "This sugar is your friend" into an autographed copy of her new book, *Sugar Baby* (Carfax), Carole's other delicious recipes for cooking with sugar, it was an understatement. Bullock-Prada — the former owner of Montpelier bakery Carole's Confectionery and the author of a poem on baking candy — is so full on love with the sweet stuff.

The book is elegantly designed and drop-dead gorgeous; the pastel-colored pages and Tina Rapp's stunning photographs are so intoxicating that even the most hardened kibitzaphobe might be



moved to start making some granola. Bullock-Prada, who says she was born into a family of "candy missionaries," ingeniously structures *Sugar Baby* according to the forms sugar adopts at various temperatures. The first chapter, for instance, is called "Simple Desserts to Throat Stage" and is peppered with recipes

for such treats as Buttercream Pudding, Pops and Citrus Anglaise. "The mother of all poetry sauces" is the temperate rose, sugar left in its "soft ball," "hard ball" and "hard crack" stages, and readers are treated to recipes for Fleur de Sel Caramel, Maple Pilrows and The Birthday-That-Kills Bessie Nameless Cake.

Even with an eye-pleasing layout and clever deconstruction of candy chemistry, it is Bullock-Prada's oft-repeated voice that makes *Sugar Baby* such a fun read. (Don't cook anything yet to have your candy — or chemistry — well find beauty directions along the line of "don't put it but caramel.")

Chemistry is also a key part of beer making, and, even before celebrity craft brewers came along, the 18th Vermont held cannot-home brewers who tickled lagers and ales with sugar. The strangely evocative little tome *Mountain Brew: A High-Spirited Guide to Country Style Beer Making* with Tips on Producing Your Own Ingredients offers a glimpse into that world.

In 1971, author Tim Matson and his girlfriend, Lee Anne Durr, moved from Manhattan to Thetford, becoming one of the hippie back-to-the-landers avoiding the state in that era. "Vermont was just magic. It was an amazing place. We were building our own houses, growing our own food, and not happy with Redowner. Everybody hated Redowner," says Matson today.

He eventually bought a small farm in Sherford. Matson and his friends watched as Interstate 91 was blasted up



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Taste Test: bevo

BY ALICE LEVITT

Seventy Riverside Highway in Colchester has had a strange few years. Since longtime tenant Junior's Italian moved around the block in 2003, the space has played host to the promising but short-lived Big Chris Republic, then to a VFW post. All the while, local diners have waited for a stable business worthy of filling Junior's shoes.

Bevo may well be that establishment. Aaron and Kathleen Stone were just looking for a kitchen for their catering business of the same name when they came across this spot and decided to turn it into a restaurant. Since the April opening of bevo — lowercase intentional — they've worked at making it a weekly centerpiece of the catering company whose slogan is "Food and beer catering for the upscale."

With intense blue walls lined with big, round mirrors, the main dining room evokes the party atmosphere you might expect at one of bevo's all-star events. In the next room, guests dine, drink and watch the Food Network on a TV on the bar. The full bar serves up an array of cocktails, ranging from the sophisticated to a warm-up beer for two. There are local beers too.

A range of starters adds to the fun — and makes it difficult to decide which finger foods to choose. On my first trip last week, my dining partner and I were enticed by the crispy fried cheddar cheese and its promise of cruffle (crispy). Later one of bevo's small plates, the dish arrived in a white, angled bowl that made it look like a work of art.

The cheese itself was breaded and fried into miniature cylinders that resembled Tater Tots. Mild cheddar, spiced from inside at first bite, gooey but not too messy. I was hoping the rind would be in the basket, but this was disappointingly sparse, so was the only occasional taste of cruffle. Some places had all three flavors working together, some did not. When they did team up, it was rare alchemy.

bevo 30 Rosewell Highway
Colchester at 224-7791

alicelevitt.comendof.com Alice Levitt
at www.alicelevitt.comendof.com



Both came into play with the steamed Natty Gruffy polenta cake. Just \$12.95, the stack of food included more breadbreads than I've ever seen on a single plate. They were cooked to perfection, yielding but not too soft. The whole plate was sprinkled with onion-shaped, purple flowers that our server said were from Massena — they confirmed on their scallion-like bits. Charles of Vermont Butter & Cheese Creamery Inc. also donated the dish.

All these elements adorned two extra-large triangles of baked polenta sitting in what the menu described as a sticky, house-made tomato sauce. Overall, the visually arresting dish had the potential to be a winner, but didn't quite make it. Unlike the salad dressings, the tomato sauce was underseasoned and just didn't stand out, despite its appealing description. The polenta cakes were dry and somewhat crumbly. Maybe this was a bad night for the dish, if I try it again, I'll hope it surpasses the rest of its pretentious peers.

The Cohen pork special was smoldering out front on the bar counter when we ordered it. The meat arrived at our table with a sexy, caramelized crust. We returned the next week, but the beef brisket wasn't there, so I was sufficiently angry it came with a single large tortilla, that my friend and I ate in two, plus chips and chopped shreds of red cabbage and tomato, lightly spiced black beans. Our server forgot the side of mango sauce cream we had eagerly anticipated, but brought it posthaste when we reminded her.

The cream tasted somewhat starchy, but not quite strong enough to identify as cheese. Overall, this plate, too, could have used bigger flavors. I forced I was detecting a theme, but our subsequent selections backed it.

That night, we ordered a dessert of vanilla scented doughnuts. Fried to order and dusted in powdered sugar, the hot rings melted in the mouth in a rapture of grease and sugar. A small cup of thick, olive-dark chocolate sauce finished the night with a bang.

When revisiting a restaurant that serves meals as well as dinner, it's try to hit both marks so the distinction is as subtle as bevo, which often the same menu all day. Our extraordinarily friendly lunch

The Moby Kool Farms smoky chicken wings lived up to their name. The large bevo of smoky wings, heavy on my previous dinnertime, tasted fresh from a barbecue competition. Strong smoke played well against the spice of the sticky, fat-free style glaze that lightly and evenly coated each wing. Chopped herbs added zest, as did a refreshingly tangy blue cheese dip.

My friend and I asked to split the \$4.95 chopped garden side salad. To our surprise, it came in two artistic-looking bowls with house-made sesame and citrus-mint vinaigrettes for us to try. Both dressings were good but lacked pop. A little more acid might have been in order, especially for the citrus and mint, which should have been an ultra-bright combination.

The salad itself barely needed the help. On a base of chopped lettuce, the juicy tomatoes and cherry slices — an unconventional addition — stole the show. The house-made cucumbers tasted like garlic bread without the grease.

The entrees were big enough to leave us full and carrying home digests bags. This was something of a feat, given the low prices and plentiful local ingredients.

food

server recommended the slow-roasted, free-range chickens with potato-leek gratin and locally harvested vegetables for our midday meal.

We decided to save that dish for a future trip, but were thankful for the wait-rer help. While chatty service can be annoying (getting in line), her and discussing her food was a pleasure. Our service the previous night had been similarly helpful (though my dinner companion's prior acquaintance with that waitress didn't help). Server co-owner, Kathleen Stone, visited each table during both meals. At lunchtime, she seemed her sleepy but popular northern strapped to her front.

Taking our server's advice, we started with the cheese nachos, described on the menu as "a tribute to Tarrillo's Pasa."

I never had the named starter at that Burlington restaurant, located for years in the building that now houses Richard Tavern, but we quickly realized why the nachos were beloved.

The ingenious design of these crisp, baked tortilla triangles solved the personal nacho problem of uneven toppings (instead of chopped ingredients, the flavor came from a thick, spicy tomato-based sauce). Add a layer of cheese, and voilà — evenly covered chips that resembled miniature pizza slices. I missed the fresh snap of tomato and jalapeño a bit, but the flavor was undeniable.

I had to try the burger, too, in large part to see what the dusted fries were all about. The crisp, breaded fries came with a choice of bacon or shishito "dust," which I requested as a meek-as-a-lamb style powder.

The fries arrived in the same adorable mini-bucket that holds the tiny, fishy cheddar biscuits that start each meal at here. No dust was to be found. The manager quickly sprinkled some over the fries for us, but the chunks were decidedly larger than dust and didn't adhere well.

The burger made up for that minor disappointment. Topped in a light-battery, grub-market bun topped with a

single ring, green tomato, the Layline River Angus Farm pork was bursting with flavor. Slowly melted cheddar, special sauce and vegetables added bite. The pork was cooked closer to well-done than to the medium rare. (It requested — I — fast that, through juicy bite, I mentioned to the server. Though I insisted it was still dished with the dish, management removed it from the bill because it hadn't arrived exactly as ordered.)

The chicken and vegetable leek plate, a departure from the fatty pork that makes up much of the menu, was the best dish of all. The base was a buttery salad studded with tomatoes and meat that sang of summer. A soft little round of homemade pita sat on top, covered by

two meaty skewers of chicken marinated in addictive sweet-and-sour yogurt, similar to a Maghribi robust lablab. Another skewer bore similarly full-flavored peppers, onions and squash. A cup of plain yogurt for dipping went mostly unattached — the skewered foods were tasty without it.

My second hero meal ended with a pair of desserts, which our server treated with enthusiasm. The brownie sundae included (on slightly overripe but warm brownies covered in ice cream — a caramel sauce and hot fudge that hardened into a ganache. I would have been happy to eat the latter on its own — but then I would have missed the snappy, sugar-coated nut mix.

A basket of apple-cheddar fritters was not what I expected — namely both ingredients combined in fritter form. Instead, we got separate battered and fried apple slices and cheese curls. Both were served as powdered sugar to simplify the messy sweet counterpoint.

While the two-month-old restaurant doesn't have every detail perfect yet, here we will track. The staffers go out of their way to make guests happy, and most will be. As Winoski grows in local sophistication, this restaurant is just what the area needs, whether for a great treat or a succinct dinner. ☺



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JUNE 12 | SPORT

Spin Cycle

Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night — The unofficial creed of the United States Postal Service could nearly apply to the Green Mountain Bicycle Club this summer, whose members brave the elements — flooded roads, mostly — to get their cycle on. The Rutland Post-Rider on May 22 drew nearly 40 bikers, some touring committee co-chair Phyl Newbeck, "disgust having parts of the ride washed out." A little in meeting never hurt anyone, it seems. This Sunday's Grand Isle Plate tour projects riders along two scenic trails: a 26-mile winding Grand Isle on the west and east shores, and a 50-mile option heading to St. Anne's Shrine and back. Grab your helmet, review your road rules and get into gear.

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"It was amazing...and perfect. The nurses were so friendly and helpful. We were really comfortable and well cared for." It is written that Tuesday's child is full of grace. In the case of Shea Michael Carr it is indeed so. On Tuesday, May 31, weighing 7lb/11oz and measuring 20 1/2 inches, baby Shea graced his parents with his arrival. The little guy is sweet and beautiful with perfect tiny features and lots of dark hair. He was sleeping soundly when we arrived - cuddled by mom Kristin Taylor and dad Brad Carr. They can't quite believe their good fortune. Baby Shea will go home soon to Waterbury Center. We wish the new family all the best and infinite grace.

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When Ruth Garbus was a kid, she and her sister, Merril, spent part of each summer wandering freely around Ponewood, a music-manor camp for adults in Plympton, Mass. It was the kind of place where teenage music waited out of cabins and adults congregated in recorder ensembles. The Garbus girls' mother was an instructor who brought them along for Ponewood's Early Music Week, during which she gave harpsichord lessons.

"It was insanely beautiful," recalls Garbus during a recent conversation from her home in Seattle's burb. "At night there would be faculty concerts and incredibly educated and accomplished teenage musicians would be playing... Hearing it now brings me back to my childhood... It shaped my ears, I think."

A wide-eyed child with a love of music set loose in a sun-dappled world of recorders and harpsichords reads like a nostalgic prelude to Garbus' first real experience playing in a band.

After dropping out of the furniture-design program at the Rhode Island School of Design as a teenager, Garbus moved to Brooklyn. There she met musicians and record-store clerks Kyle Thomas and Kurt Wiseman. The two were the founders and lead forces behind a local psychedelic folk band called Featherthorn. After a while, Thomas and Garbus became close friends, and he invited her to join the band—even though she really didn't know much about playing music.

"You didn't necessarily have to be a talented musician to be invited to be in the band," she says.

Featherthorn was a sprawling, eight-member collective that performed doom, swampy, acid-folk with barely tamed acoustic guitars and banjos, ramshackle drum kits, bells, and singing sees. There was a lot of group singing. The band's sound and style harked back to a bucolic era when long hair, beards, floppy hats, sitars—and, yes, even recorders and harpsichords—ruled.

The band was in the right place at the right time. Around 2004, it caught the ear of Deborah Burkart, who had become the most popular artist in the bar greening "Freaky 80's" movement. Burkart mentioned the band as a bit of music he was listening to for online music mix PotteryK, which raised Featherthorn's profile. He later invited them to work with him



On Her Own

Songwriter Ruth Garbus steps into the spotlight

BY MATT RUSHLOW

on his new album in a studio in Woodstock, NY. Some of those collaborations ended up on Burkart's breakthrough record, *Cripple Crow*.

"Being in Featherthorn and getting that amount of attention...at that time it was like my whole world exploded," Garbus says. "And I realized there were all these people in all these different places around the world who were listening to me and appreciating it. And that was a real eye opener...for me."

Garbus had never been a songwriter. She sang and played a little guitar, bass and drums in Featherthorn, but she looked around and saw how many people in and associated with the band were writing great songs. As she tells it, it was Kurt Wiseman and his brother, Chris—Garbus' boyfriend since 2006—who inspired her to start writing.

"In their way they were like, 'You can do this,' she says. "They didn't say that, but that was the message I got from being around them."

As Garbus became more confident as a songwriter, she wanted to have more of a voice—literally and figuratively—in Featherthorn, but it wasn't to be. She was only able to contribute a handful of songs to their self-produced albums and solo "offshoot" releases on Burkart's Greenmaning label.

So Garbus recorded six songs on a cassette recorder and dubbed the result *Ruth's Request*. She offered copies for sale during a Featherthorn tour through California, and was thrilled when people bought them—though she admits she only sold about 20 copies.

It took Garbus nearly five years to write and record her next album, 2009's *Reminders With Names*. She claims she's a slow writer. But then, she had a lot on her plate.

In late 2008, Garbus, Thomas and Kurt Wiseman started a new band called Happy Birthday. In a way, it was the opposite of Featherthorn. Where Featherthorn was a quasi-utopian collective in

which everyone could write, sing and play spaced-out folk, Happy Birthday had a center of gravity: Thomas' booty, in a punk songwriting.

That time, Garbus played drums and had even less input into the creative process—though she insists the band "was like a relationship between three people." In a surprising turn, Happy Birthday was signed to Seattle's Sub Pop Records. The band spent the next year plus on a whirlwind tour promoting its eponymous record across the U.S., Canada and the United Kingdom. Eventually, the group unraveled, and a touring version of the band, now Wiseman, played its final show in London an early November 2010.

"Having your band signed to Sub Pop so fucking early on in its life, it just put an enormous amount of pressure on that didn't allow for any kind of creative incubation to take place," Garbus says.

And yet, there was a positive side to the wild ride.

"Obviously, it feels really good to have people saying, 'Oh, this is good. We like this music.' You guys are making interesting art, and we want it."

Since then, Garbus has started to accept more of the solo gigs she was offered—but has turned down a whole part of Happy Birthday. A few weeks ago, she was the opening act for her sister, Merril, who's better known these days as the African-influenced, self-sampling, dance-pop diva Uffie (Uffie? Uff, she deserves that many modifiers.) Merril's manager has encouraged Ruth, arranging gigs for her in places such as East Hampton, Mass., and Montreal.

But Garbus remains close to her roots. This week she's playing at Argosy's biweekly *Walking Wounded* festival at the Masque House in Woodstock. She's sharing bill with what could be considered the usual suspects: Kurt Wiseman and the guy who recorded both *Broken* (with Rocco) and *Happy Birthday's* Sub Pop album: Ryan Power.

For this time, Garbus isn't part of a band. She isn't playing second fiddle—or, as another Sheryl's label under the lights by herself, playing her own songs. ☐

1 Ruth Garbus' debut album, *Reminders With Names*, is available on Sub Pop. She can be found at www.ruthgarbus.com and www.happybirthdayband.com.

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music

REVIEW *this*



Gregory Douglass, *Lucid*

(JAGGED RECORDS CD, DIGITAL, DOWNLOAD)

Seems like ages since we've heard from Gregory Douglass. The local pop prince's last record, the breezing and sometimes confrontational *Butter*, was released some two years ago, which is something of a dry spell for this prolific songwriter. Though he's been busy playing weekly online concerts and touring the US in a number of local cover-band St. Jorg, he's such a phenomenal studio artist that it's hard not to miss an eyebrow when he hasn't released a new record in a while. Douglass' fans will be delighted to learn that his eighth studio album is finally here, and *Lucid* was more than worth the wait.

Ernie, vintage-rock like climes introduce the disc's opening cut, "The Night." Douglass matches that southern sensibility by taking the listener in with a slow-burning melody that feels both soothing and dangerous. He is a fast-rising talented singer, but here displays more than just characteristically pipesy R&B performance that Douglass has occasionally been guilty of in the past. But throughout *Lucid*, his performance is refined, his communications more with audience and guide than with show-stopping lead vocalists. The results are often astounding.

The title track begins as a piano-driven song, then quickly changes course and veers into atmospheric electro-pop. Crystaline production has long been a hallmark of Douglass' recorded work. *Lucid* is no exception, particularly on this song. A phantasm

of ethereal notes dart around the speakers, highlighting Douglass' intense vocal melody.

Even more than on previous records, he covers a variety of stylistic terrain in this one. From easy, mid-to-slow rock on album opener "White Out" (a new-wave electro pop on "Nayanya") and dreamy ruminations on "Baron," the singer displays impressive versatility and artistic curiosity.

Still, regardless of various sonic digressions, *Lucid* is still very much a Gregory Douglass record. Meaning that fans will find typically well-crafted pop singles, thought-provoking lyrical turns and subterranean arrangements. That last characteristic is particularly true on the songs featuring cellist Monica Citro, whose work on "One True Thing" is alone almost worth the price of admission.

Gregory Douglass celebrates the release of *Lucid* with a show this Saturday, June 12, at the Higher Ground Showroom Lounge. Austin Levandos spins.

DAN HOLLEY

Will Patton, *Floes*

(JAGGED RECORDS CD)

In a handwritten letter sent to *Seven Days* introducing his new record, *Floes*, Will Patton eloquently describes the album as "the latest installment in my rich, slowly evolving." While it's unlikely the album will significantly boost the veteran music lover's career, it does offer listeners a bounty of original textures and adds yet another milestone to the local pop jazz guru's impressive career.

Where his previous record, 2008's *4th St.*, featured Patton and his company musically maulinging Peruvian side streets with occasional soulful forays into Latin jazz, *Floes* represents a diverse collection of musical shoring more in common with globe-trotting fare as Patton's 2003 collaboration with flared-gypsy jazz guitarist Ninoe Garcia, *Strong Theory*. This record opens with an acoustic-based version of "Chacona," by bebop pioneer Dexter Gordon. The tune's familiar melody briefly marries Patton's melody, as his longtime backing mates, guitarist Steve Hanz, bassist Clyde Stubs and drummer Gabe Jarrell,

form a gently bouncing musical bed beneath him.

"Le Miroir" is the album's first Patton-penned tune. The breezy, cultured waltz features a fine guest turn from the band's sole daughter, Anna Patton, on clarinet and a series of witty riffs from guitarist Dena Schallau.

Patton also wrote the following cut, a sinewy, Latin-inflected chorale called "Clairvoyance." Here, he and violinist David Gussakov alternate leads as percussionist Steve Parnia propels the tune forward with a variety of syncopated rhythmic flourishes.



"Water for Anna" is a gorgeous ode to Patton's daughter. The tender, bluesy-tinged ballad is highlighted by Jim Patton's weeping clarinet, which gracefully bends and curves around Gussakov's violin — or fiddle, in this case. Sonny Sherr's "Bebop in Paris" is next and jabs the listener's attention in a juicy fish of barely jerky guitar and mando riffs.

"Sonny" is described as a "family affair" in the album's liner notes, and opens with Anna Patton on clarinet, as well as Will Patton's wife, Deb, on shaker. It's a nice reimagining of Carmen Valera's classic.

Following next come Patton originals — "Big Dots" and "Never Be" — as well as a version of Duke Ellington's "Daphne's." Five closes with Ninoe Garcia's "Caporal Swing." Patton recorded the tune with Garcia in a Paris studio, and it fairly bursts with jubilation, but these aspects *Floes* may not miss. Will Patton is a wealthy man, but local jazz fans will be richer for having heard it.

Will Patton plays *Lucid's* *Floes* on Burlington this Friday, June 10.

DAN HOLLEY

Ⓜ GET YOUR MUSIC REVIEWED: IF YOU'RE AN INTERESTED ARTIST OR HAVE MUSIC YOU WANT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY TO KNOW ABOUT, SEND US YOUR REVIEW: 255-52 CHARLAIN ST. STE. 3 BURLINGTON VT 05401

Seasonal Greetings

Fairfield Porter, Middlebury College Museum of Art

Few major American artists are better suited to a summertime show than Fairfield Porter. The sun seems always to be shining in his paintings, which depict a WASPY world of money, leisure and preppy prosperity. "Fairfield Porter Now" is thus a perfect warm-weather exhibit for the Middlebury College Museum of Art.

For all of his casual charm, however, Porter (1907-75) was no lightweight, and this is not a frothy, schen's out show. A realist at a time when abstract expressionists were in their ascendancy, Porter painted portraits and landscapes as harmonies of pale colors and soft light.

This show, consisting of 39 oils and drawings from the Parrish Art Museum in Southampton on Long Island, offers a glimpse of what it holds as "The Creative Process of an American Master."

Porter's method is detailed in a 1955 *ARTnews* essay by the New York post Frank O'Hara, with photos by Randolph Blackhawk. The published piece, "Porter Paints a Picture," is displayed in a vitrine. Nearly Middlebury's curators have highlighted the "raw" state of a light loosely sketched scene of Miami, Amsterdam and Manhattan by angling those unfinished oils atop a bar that runs along one of the gallery walls.

O'Hara writes that Porter's work has "a look of spontaneity and effortless facility" but in tracing the creation of a portrait of the artist's 4-year-old daughter — from drawings through oil sketches, to the stages of the painting itself — O'Hara and Blackhawk show how studied and disciplined Porter's technique really was.

Several pieces in the show are unfinished, some intentionally so. Many of Porter's portraits, for example, lack facial features. That odd omission seems to serve a dual purpose. As with the headless, sculptured forms of classical antiquity, viewers are forced to concentrate on aspects of the work that might otherwise be seen as secondary. Leaving faces blank also enabled Porter to avoid what he acknowledged to be a weakness in his work: an inability to render convincing landscapes.

That's not always the case, however.



Fairfield Porter



Red Avenue

WHEN ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISTS WERE IN THEIR ASCENDANCY, PORTER PAINTED PORTRAITS AND LANDSCAPES AS HARMONIES OF PALE COLORS AND SOFT LIGHT.

A 1972 self-portrait corresponds closely with photos of the artist that are included in the show. With his hair receding, fopping forelocks, the wrinkled Porter looks amazingly youthful at age 65 — just three years before his death.

There's also an entirely finished, nearly life-size portrait of his wife,

show, Porter's friend and fellow representational painter Jane Freilicher is shown seated outside in a wicker chair alongside her young daughter, who's wearing a red play suit. As is indicated by an accompanying photo of Porter painting this picture, the setting is the expansive lawn and fields of the artist's Southampton

home. The mood here, as in so much of Porter's work, is cheerful, relaxed, comfortably elegant.

There's none of the 1970s characteristics of the abstract expressionists — let alone their elevation of the artist's psyche over recognizable subject matter. Yet Porter cited Willem de Kooning as a crucial influence on his work. And he regularly drank with de Kooning and other ab ex's at bars at the Cedar Tavern, their Greenwich Village hangout, during weekly trips to Manhattan from his home and studio in Southampton.

How to explain such a curious kinship?

Carter Kress Ottman suggests in the catalog for the show that Porter was interested more in the process of painting and the materiality of the medium than in what the work appeared to be about. "Most critics and artists looked at figurative paintings in terms of their content," Ottman writes. "But Porter, as he painting itself that content."

In other words, he merely happened to compose portraits, landscapes and strangely ungendered city scenes, because, as he commented in an interview, "a reference to reality is the easiest thing to do." Looked at from that angle, Porter's movement can be seen to involve much more than the painting of pretty pictures. He was an avant-gardist going on a traditionist's 2.

KEVIN J. KELLEY

Fairfield Porter: Now — The Creative Process of an American Master
Middlebury College Museum of Art, through August 16. museo.middlebury.edu



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